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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Sir Edward Grey's phrase about our attitude towards the Congo Free State is sure to become a sort of classic, like his Fashoda phrase. He says that if there is no reform we may act alone—within our treaty rights and interests. This is as far as any statesman or any patriot can go. Palmerston would hardly have gone further, though he might have spoken with more bluster. Yet these press-chair Jellabys who are deadly anxious for lion-hearted crusades to the Congo and Macedonia are not contented. They would have us perpetually interfering in other nations' affairs outside our interests and treaty rights—a return to the peacock policy of some Townshend who dabbled in pragmatic sanctions and questions of succession between the Hapsburgs and Bourbons.

In the Congo matter there is precisely the same kind of difficulty as in Macedonia. In each case the observance of treaty obligations by the Power responsible for good government is demanded; and in each case there is the difficulty of bringing this recalcitrant Power to terms. It is the King in the case of Belgium, owing to the anomalous powers of administration he has asserted in the Congo State. Lord Cromer compares his rule with that of Ismail in Egypt. It is supposed that the way of reform lies in the responsibility of Belgium itself and its assumption of rule in the Congo. But it is not at all clear either that Belgium fully understands what her burden would be or would be able to bear it. There would probably be little revenue if the administration were what it ought to be. The latest account is that the King demanded such terms for himself that the Cabinet threatened resignation; and the demands have been withdrawn.

Both Houses have been discussing Macedonia this week. The resolution moved in the House of Commons regretted the failure of reforms and urged the establishment of executive control by an authority responsible to the Powers. Both Lord Lansdowne in the Lords and Mr. Balfour below refrained from criticism of the Government. Mr. Balfour even said that, after Sir Edward Grey's speech, if there had been a division he should have supported the Foreign Secretary. All the harrowing descriptions of affairs in Macedonia and all denunciations of the slow progress of the Powers in their projects of reform are idle effusiveness in presence of the essential fact that the only hope is in the Concert of the Powers. Individual action too much emphasised threatens the break-up of the Concert and brings the ever-present danger of a Turkish war to the front.

Sir Edward Grey's observation on the possible effect on the Concert of the railway rivalry, arising out of the issue of the Irade to Austria, is not very hopeful. It is in the nature of a pious wish that the harmony of the Powers may prove unaffected by this new disturbing cause. He trusted that there was no ground for apprehending that the Novi Bazar railway scheme would lead to difficulties within the Concert. Not quarrels so much as indifference is the danger to the Concert; and Sir Edward believes the Powers are conscious of the risk of letting Macedonian affairs drift. The Macedonian question he is sure can be solved if the Powers will take it seriously in hand; and he renews the suggestion of Lord Lansdowne that a Turkish Governor should be appointed. With such a Governor, the reforms already agreed upon would be secured and the country would be swept clear of the bands and pacified. Well, "Parson's said what he ow't to a' said", whatever the effect of it may be.

At the dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce the German Ambassador would not allow the commercial rivalry of Great Britain and Germany to be a strain on their friendly relations. It is a large inference to make from his invitation to dinner by the Chamber of Commerce. But after all this airy, jaunty way of disguising a real danger is better than constantly

harping on it maliciously; and we know that what an Ambassador says at a social function "is not evidence". With how much scepticism we ought to accept his statement that Germany has had nothing to do with instigating Austria to build the Sanjak railway we shall not attempt to say. But the anxiety of the Ambassador, expressed at the dinner, for the harmony of the Concert and the introduction of reforms into Macedonia, has not been so evident in Germany's actual relations with the Powers. The Sultan's best backer in his refusing the judicial and other reforms has undoubtedly been Germany.

The Lords debates on foreign and imperial problems are the most encouraging of Parliamentary signs. When an imperial question comes up in the Lords, one can feel that Parliament has something to do with statesmanship and with patriotism. The debate on Indian frontier policy on Tuesday is in point. Here was a most vexed question discussed from a purely imperial standpoint in the best temper by men of expert knowledge, and the inexpert kept silent. It is quite delightful to find all sides agreed as to frontier policy. Lord Curzon explained his own policy of effective watchfulness without aggression; and Lord Elgin endorsed it. It is noteworthy, however, that Lord Curzon does not think that this arrangement can last indefinitely. He foresees a time when the Afridi and other tribes will come under British government.

Mr. Morley hopes in a few days to be able to announce a satisfactory settlement of the Zakka Khel trouble. So far the military operations have been singularly successful. Though Sir James Willcocks was not apparently concerned to keep his preparations secret, when he moved he struck so swiftly and so surely as to make prolonged resistance impossible. Less than a fortnight has sufficed to bring about the intervention of the friendly Afridi headmen who induced Sir James Willcocks to suspend operations with a view to the Zakkas' submission. The fighting is believed to have cost them dear, but happily the loss on the British side has been quite small, thanks to admirable training in taking cover during hazardous movements. Whether or not there was at any time a chance of other tribes joining the Zakkas, Sir James Willcocks' brilliant little campaign has been a practical logic in favour of peace which they understand and fully appreciate.

Irrigation is a romance alike of engineering, of agriculture, and of finance. Lord Cromer at the Society of Arts on Tuesday was within the mark when he spoke of Sir Colin Moncrieff and his colleagues in the great work of irrigation as the saviours of Egypt. Their engineering skill has not only turned arid lands into smiling cornfields; it has saved the fellah from the consequences of his own inertia when the courbash was abolished. On the financial side Sir Hanbury Brown was able to show that irrigation works not infrequently give a return of cent. per cent. for money invested. India, Australia, California all supply object-lessons in their beneficent and profitable effects; and much as has already been done on the Nile, more remains to be accomplished. Lord Cromer estimates that in the next ten or fifteen years Western science with the aid of some £20,000,000 sterling spent on irrigation in Egypt and the Sudan will have further opportunities of justifying the ways of Western civilisation to the Eastern mind.

Lord Courtney of Liskeard—in the way that has made him so popular with his friends—once warned the Radicals that they must not regard the Peers as opponents without a notion of self-defence. Parliamentary wile is indeed not peculiar to the House of Commons. Lord Camperdown's Bill for Scottish Small Holdings is a nice illustration of this. Here is a Bill which corresponds with the English Small Holdings Act, which, as we are all agreed—and our unanimity is wonderful—is going to plant the poor people on the land and make them happy ever afterwards. It is brought in and easily carried through second reading—blessed by an ex-Liberal leader and Prime Minister

too—and it will be sent presently to the Lower House. The Lower House will no doubt throw it out contemptuously; but we daresay that Unionist candidates and speakers in Scotland will in due season tell the Scottish peasants how the House of Lords wished to make them happy and prosperous, ached and cowed, like the English peasants; and how the House of Commons spoilt the plan.

Grave heads, perhaps, may be shaken over this business; and we may be told that the House of Lords loses dignity, makes itself cheap, by playing a game like this. There is no doubt something in this, but wile must be matched by wile. It is not well to think too much of your dignity when your life is threatened. Hence we think that the House of Lords is quite justified in meeting stratagem with stratagem; and clearly Lord Rosebery (a good judge in such a matter) holds the same view. His witty speech on Tuesday showed this. His chaff about Lord Crewe, by the way, was very good of its kind; but to describe your son-in-law as a butterfly is very near unkind. When we call a man a butterfly it is as if we called him a popinjay.

It is hard, and probably quite foolish, to be melted by the sorrows of the great. There may be a touch of pathos in Henry VI.'s envy of the ploughboy, but this is because Shakespeare is such a master of language. In real life people who fill high—and lucrative—positions at their own choosing really cannot look for sympathy from the public. Hence Lord Carrington's plaint on Tuesday that he is the most hated or reviled man in England fell on dull ears. The farmers, he thinks, execrate him for the Small Holdings Act and the landlords for the Land Act of last year. We believe that he is too sensitive. In sober fact Lord Carrington is no doubt one of the least hated, as least considered, of Ministers.

At the Surveyors' Institute dinner on Wednesday several members of the Government were present. We wonder whether they were quite comfortable. The House of Lords could not be omitted from the toast list, and Lord Fitzmaurice had to respond. He ventured to say that in "many ways" it was of "a representative character": a helpful admission for those who are working up a great crusade against the House of Lords! Mr. Jesse Collings in his speech said that those who favoured the land doctrines of Henry George took an oblique view of the Ten Commandments. Perhaps, however, he was too harsh in this. "Advanced Radicals" are often quite ready to keep eight of the Commandments, provided only they are suffered to break the remaining two which relate to other people's effects.

With a tear in his voice Mr. McKenna announced the new Education Bill on Monday—this Government gives us one per session—as a message of peace. He had informed the world beforehand that he was coming with a sword. In the House he deemed it discreet to wreath the blade with olive leaves; but it was clumsily done. The edge showed through everywhere. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald as strongly as Mr. Balfour resented the absurdity of supposing such a Bill could be a settlement of anything. This message of peace consists in depriving every denominational school of all aid from the rates; of wresting from the Church of England and the Roman Catholics all their country schools, no compensation being given for the buildings. Universal undenominationalism will be forced on the country schools; in the large towns schools may keep their distinctive religious teaching by standing out of the local educational system and paying fees.

The Bill is nicely adjusted to party ends. The main thing was to attack the Church of England, being predominantly Conservative; so the rural denominational schools are clean swept away: in large towns some of these schools get a good deal of Liberal Churchmen's or Roman Catholic support, so they are allowed a precarious existence; the undenominational school, the Nonconformist and so the Liberal ideal, is favoured with

every blessing the State can bestow—money without stint from both rates and taxes. Lord Hugh Cecil has put the Government rating of consciences brilliantly. "There is, first, the primatial conscience of the undenominationalist, which is rate-worthy; there is, secondly, the patrician conscience of the urban Roman or Anglican, which is tax-worthy; there is, thirdly, the plebeian conscience of the rural Anglican, which is worth nothing either out of taxes or rates." The debate showed that the Bill did not even please Ministerialists—its reception was hardly tepid. Of course, it will not pass.

The Opposition declared itself irreconcilably hostile straight off—seldom has any Bill been met with such net refusal. Mr. Balfour's first few words left no doubt as to the Conservative attitude. There was a significance in Mr. F. E. Smith's uncompromising tone—no speech in the debate approached his in brilliancy—for he was not a prominent antagonist of Mr. Birrell's Bill. We should like by the way to ask Mr. McKenna how, if it was useless to attempt to make his changes in training-college rules by legislation, is it of use to introduce this Bill? If he could not get the other through, he certainly will not this.

The Licensing Bill is simply incredible and impossible. It is a declaration of war against all interests connected with the liquor trade, and a manifesto that it is not for the future to be considered in the category of legitimate occupations. What else can be said of it when it proposes at a swoop that thirty thousand houses shall, without yea or nay, be swept out of existence? This is to happen by the mere action of Parliament, and local differences and discretion are disregarded. So many public-houses to so many inhabitants in town and country: a rigid rule to be applied automatically. And for this wholesale destruction of property the compensation, paid by the trade itself and calculated on the lowest possible scale and a new principle, is to be limited to fourteen years; preposterously short in any case, as Mr. Balfour rightly declared.

After this fourteen years the remaining public-house licences may be abolished without compensation; renewals will only be granted on payment of the value which a licence gives to licensed over unlicensed premises; and besides this the principle of local option is authorised, so that the magistrates may be directed for three years to grant no new licences at all. Then the Sunday-closing provisions reduce the profits out of which the insurance funds against all the new risks must be provided. And what is the object of all this change? Professedly it is the reduction of drinking; but experience shows that such wholesale attacks on an open trade only drives drinking into secret recesses and increases intemperance. Drinking clubs will almost surely be fostered, in spite of the provisions of the Bill for their registration and inspection. The only thing we can congratulate Mr. Asquith about is not his Bill but his speech. In it Mr. Asquith showed that sheer intellectual strength and grip which are his chief characteristics, and he rose to the situation to admiration.

Not only beer and whisky but champagne too is in trouble just now. The popularity of champagne has declined so gravely of late that many of the leading houses in the trade are considering a plan for reducing its price by about a third. It is to be hoped that this plan relates wholly to the good champagne. Champagne of the "pop" order is far too cheap for the health of the wine-drinker as it is. More of this poison is drunk than many people suppose; and, except with the very young and strong, "doth act like madness on the brain", and what is even worse on the liver. This is one of the serious evils of Mr. Gladstone's grocer licence.

We may frankly admit that the interest the Irish Nationalists take in whisky seems a good thing for the Union. It prevents them from being too much in sympathy with a large section of Radicals who—roughly—may be described as anti-Union but equally anti-whisky. Thus Mr. Devlin, Home Ruler, is very annoyed with Mr. John Burns, Home Ruler, because

Ireland has been slighted in the composition of the Royal Commission on Whisky. Only one Irishman is on this Commission, and he is not altogether to the taste of the Nationalists in Parliament. They want some Irish representative who will "command the confidence of all parties", as Mr. Redmond put it. It certainly does seem as if Ireland ought to be allowed "a good show" on this Commission, considering the way in which it has always stood by whisky. If England drinks most of the whisky, Ireland and Scotland at any rate make it.

The case of Mr. Persse was up several times during the week in the House of Commons. We fear it is too evident that the Irish Government does not mean to defend him effectually. He has been denied—what was never denied to Mr. Healy and other patriots in danger—special police protection. Several members—we are sorry to see Mr. John Redmond among them—have been trying to hurt Mr. Persse's reputation by charges and suggestions in the House of Commons which they do not—for fear of the law—venture on outside S. Stephen's. Boycotting is very mean, and cattle-driving—despite Mr. Cherry and Mr. Birrell—is about as evil; but surely neither of these things is quite so contemptible as taking sanctuary at S. Stephen's when you have something dangerous or actionable to say of an opponent. It is very questionable whether the time has not come when privilege should be swept away.

Mr. Haldane's courage in resisting so far the clamour of the extremists is no doubt something to be thankful for. The reduction in the Army Estimates—£301,000—will afford them little comfort. Unfortunately the expenditure rendered necessary by the launching of the new Army scheme has been counterbalanced by a further reduction of 5,000 in the personnel of the Regular Army. Worse still, the continuance of the process is foreshadowed. There is a progressive reduction on the vote of 1905-6 of £2,054,000, and this has been obtained by the loss of many fine battalions. In the Home Army to-day there are only 2,896 more men than in 1899. Shall we never profit by experience?

There are two points about the Opium Parliamentary Papers which are specially noteworthy. The first is that the Decree forbidding the cultivation and consumption of opium in China was the result of a visit to India by his Excellency Tong Shoa-yi. On his return home he gravely assured his Government that Chinese craving for the drug, and not England's desire to force it upon China, was responsible for the continuance of the traffic. The second point is that with the promulgation of the Decree a general disposition was discovered in China to regard opium smoking as a vice—a point as to which we may entertain some doubts. To China and India the gradual suppression of the opium traffic means heavy financial loss, but Sir J. Jordan thinks the Chinese Imperial Government has faced the responsibility courageously in the interests of morality. As crops had already been sown at the time that the Decree was issued, it is not possible yet to say to what extent the cultivator will hearken.

Mr. Burns ought to be pleased for once with the "Moderates" on the London County Council if his views on Poor Law reform are what they are supposed to be. The Council will probably accept the report of its Committee on Poor Law reform, which recommends the abolition of the Boards of Guardians and the transference of their duties to the Borough Councils. The Metropolitan Asylums Board would also disappear under this plan, and the County Council take its place as the central authority. If the report goes before the Poor Law Commission now sitting as the Council's evidence, we hope it will be made clear that the Council favours the grant of extensive powers of co-optation of non-members on the poor-relief committees of the Borough Councils. In London, particularly, there are many keen enough for work of this kind whose shrinking from platform and Caucus shuts them out more or less. The report is confined to London, but the principle adopted might easily, with necessary modifications, be applied to the rest of the country.

Signor Nasi, the Italian Minister who was charged with misappropriating public funds for his own purposes, has been found guilty and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. The excuse made for him is that it was to help forward his public ambitions and not for personal greed that he was led into his elaborate system of frauds. This would account for the many zealous defenders the Signor has had all through the efforts that have been made to punish him. Friends whose interests were involved in his would naturally be anxious for his escape, and his trial was thus a contest of parties. The Sicilians pushed matters almost to insurrection and the troops had enough to do to keep order. Even a bust of the King was insulted and Signor Nasi's own effigies honoured in popular demonstrations. The persistence of the Government in carrying the proceedings to a conclusion seems at length to have impressed Signor Nasi's friends as not to be evaded, and the result of the trial may set up a higher standard for Italian public officials.

Much was made at the time of some passages at arms between counsel in the Druce case, but these were amenities compared with the gross scene at the Railway and Canal Commission on Wednesday. To carry your private wrangles to fisticuffs is a thing unknown to-day even in Parliaments, where, if blows are ever struck, at least they relate to political principles. It was a happy chance that Sir S. T. Evans, the new Solicitor-General, was present to make peace between the brawlers. But surely he has rarely found himself in a more awkward predicament? Sir Robert Finlay, it is said, sat between these Hackenschmidts of the Bar, not an enviable position either.

If the Home Secretary advises, as he seems likely to do, that there should be a Court of Appeal from the Dramatic Censor, the office is doomed. Sir W. S. Gilbert and Mr. Henry James, Mr. Pinero and Mr. Barrie know this and that is why they propose their scheme. Mr. Redford's strength lay in sitting tight and giving no reasons for his decisions; but where each party is to appoint his own arbitrator all the reasons, good and bad, for rejection will be known. If a thing can be argued people will take sides; and so the real Court of Appeal will be the public, who will want to see the play for the excitement of testing its own opinions. This is, perhaps, what these astute dramatists mean by educating the public to dispense with the Censor. But in any case we shall be glad if an appeal from the Censor is allowed. The Censorship has not justified its existence.

It is doubtful whether the sympathy felt with Modernism in some intellectual quarters will be increased by M. Paul Sabatier's address this week at the Passmore Edwards Settlement. The address had merits; but the lecturer showed a lack of prudence and good taste when he dragged into a religious and philosophic discussion a defence of the unjust French Separation Law and intermixed his laudations of certain theologians with somewhat stale jokes about the Montagnini dossier. Those of the political nonconformists present who understood French were apparently tickled, but this sort of thing hardly helps to that reunion of Christendom which M. Sabatier and his friends are supposed to desire. M. Sabatier also assured us that Modernism is essentially Catholic, and the author of "Robert Elsmere", who was present, spoke with enthusiasm of Modernism. Suspicious testimony.

Women are not even to be allowed to agitate for free trade, much less for the parliamentary vote—this is what the decision of the Free Trade Union on Friday seems to come to. At the last moment the Union cancels all women's tickets—"including those for sofa stalls". What will Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson and Mrs. Fawcett say to this? But what a revenge for them that on this same Friday the Woman's Suffrage Bill passes its second reading: majority a hundred and eighty! They get the best of the exchange; and may be contemptuous of a pusillanimous Government that left the voting an open question.

A FRAUD ON PARLIAMENT.

WE can afford to take the Government's third, and last, venture in education quietly. If a serious Bill introduced by an able man could not pass, what chance has a makeshift one introduced by Mr. McKenna? But this Bill was not meant to pass. Everything in it shows that it was never contemplated as future law, which indeed is its best excuse. Mr. Asquith cares for education and knows a good deal about it; Mr. Haldane knows perhaps more about it and cares not less. Neither Mr. Asquith nor Mr. Haldane would take any serious risk of a proposal so anti-educational and so retrograde as the contracting-out clause of this Bill becoming law. They have both commended over and over again Mr. Balfour's co-ordination of all elementary and secondary schools under local authorities. They know, and have never questioned, that this was a real improvement in educational organisation on the system which preceded the Act of 1902. We give them full credit for having no intention nor indeed any idea of going back to a state of things they have never approved of. Mr. Asquith's answer to his friends, who innocently wonder at his allowing such a proposal to appear in a Government Bill at all, is of course: "Don't be afraid; the Bill will never pass. If a political end was to be served by including in a sham Bill a contracting-out clause, why not?" But does it not stamp the whole Bill as unreal? "Of course, it is unreal; it was never meant to be anything else. Why, what would become of the whole House of Lords agitation; where would our case against the Peers be if they accepted an Education Bill of ours? Three things are necessary to the case we have to put before the country at the next election. We must be able to show that we have tried to remedy the Nonconformist grievance, that we have tried to conciliate the Church, and that the Lords have frustrated all our efforts. If we succeeded in remedying the Nonconformist grievance, their zeal for Liberalism would sink to nothing; for there is no gratitude in politics; if we conciliated the Church, how could we abuse it any more, and how can a Liberal carry on an election campaign without abusing the Church? And if the Lords accepted our Bills, how could we attack the Lords?"

In this light the Bill becomes perfectly intelligible; it fits in with the political plan; its parts admirably hang together; and on no other assumption is it intelligible at all. If it had been intended to pass, would it have contained the precise provision that wrecked Mr. Birrell's Bill? Everyone knows that the Lords were strongly desirous of passing an Education Bill in some form; they were more than ready to compromise. The Archbishop of Canterbury made it clear that he would have accepted the Bill, as amended by the Government, if they had not insisted on debarring the regular teachers in what had been Voluntary schools from giving the denominational teaching allowed on certain days of the week. And Lord Lansdowne also made this the crux of the position. The Government would not give way on the point, and the Bill collapsed. In this year's Bill precisely the same disability on the teachers reappears. How can its authors expect it to pass? Are the Lords more likely to give way in the present political temper of the country than they were immediately after the General Election of 1906? If it was a matter of principle on which the Government could neither yield nor compromise, they should have fallen back on their own remedy and dealt with the Lords, or gone to the country. It is absolutely clear that if they wanted it to pass, they would not have put this in the Bill. Rather the clause was obviously put in with the express idea of making it impossible for the Lords to accept the Bill. Everything else, as before, might possibly have been waived or compromised; but this could not. The Government are deliberately fooling Parliament; occupying its time with the pretence of passing a measure which is really but a move in an electioneering game played wholly outside. And Mr. Asquith will no doubt sonorously repeat his regrets at being compelled by stern considerations of time to apply the guillotine to a Bill that he and his colleagues never intended should pass. If he wanted to save time, he

should have guillotined the Bill before it showed itself in Parliament. The whole proceeding is a gross abuse of the Parliamentary process and a sheer fraud on the public.

The unreality of the Bill comes out only the more clearly on examination of the parts. According to Mr. Asquith, it is introduced to secure two objects, local control and a peaceful settlement of the religious question. The idea of local control contained in Mr. Balfour's Bill was good, says Mr. Asquith, but it was ineffectually carried out. And he proceeds to make this local control effectual by allowing an indefinite number of schools to withdraw from local control altogether. It is really sublime audacity for a Minister who has acquiesced in the contracting-out clause to ask the support of Parliament for the Bill precisely on the ground that it is a measure for strengthening local control. Here again Mr. Asquith has his answer for private consumption only—"Yes", he can say, "schools that contract out will escape all local control; but they can't last! I've seen to it that they won't have money enough to go on. They'll starve. So local control will prevail in the end." Either this reservation or Mr. Asquith's claim of increased local control breaks down. We shall hold to the second alternative. The Bill weakens instead of strengthening local control. Vainly Mr. Asquith insists on the increased control of schools in single-school areas—schools taken by force from the Church, and no rent or compensation for the buildings, which have been provided out of private money. What does the increase in local control amount to here? Just the power to appoint the head teacher; but except on religious grounds the County Council had power over the teachers, including the head, before. The Council could annul the appointment of an inefficient teacher. And making the school undenominational hardly increases local control at all, for the Council has discretion under the law only between giving undenominational teaching or no religious teaching at all, and this discretion this very Bill takes clean away from the Council in the case of the transferred schools. From any point of view the pretext of increased local control breaks down utterly.

And a peaceful religious settlement? We do not wonder that Mr. Balfour was irritated into language of exceptional heat for him by the humbug of the talk about peaceful settlement by such a Bill as this. At one stroke Churchmen are to be deprived of all their country schools without compensation for buildings or other set-off of any kind whatsoever. The religious teaching which Churchmen believe in is to be allowed on Saturday and Sunday. What a great concession to allow Church teaching in Sunday school, a right the wildest political dissenter has never yet thought of challenging! And on Saturday too! Religious teaching is to be a holiday task, to compete with games and the mother's demands at home. Just as the Government want to put the parent in towns to his election between saving his pocket and saving his children's religion—counting, no doubt, on the flesh—*à fortiori* necessitous flesh—preferring temporal to spiritual claims. In such case we can conceive a good many parents not necessitous effectively convincing their conscience that after all there is no difference that matters between undenominational and any other religious teaching. We admire the sincerity of Canon Henson and his school who welcome the Bill as providing a good test of parents' real regard for the Church. Very interesting to watch other people under persecution, especially when you are entrenched behind doctrinal ramparts so broad that nothing is left to persecute you for. But ninety out of every hundred Churchmen—and more—will refuse any such arrangement even more peremptorily than they refused Mr. Birrell's Bill. To pretend that the Bill is meant as an *airenicon* is merely superfluous hypocrisy. It is adding insult to injury. It is of a piece with the old Liberal cant of disendowing the Church for the Church's good. Let an enemy come as an enemy and you can respect him only while you try to kill him. But the enemy who comes as your friend, he—cannot be described in Parliamentary language.

And so the old weary path has to be trodden all over again—speeches and wranglings in Parliament, inter-

minable leading articles, interminable letters to editors, innumerable meetings, innumerable demonstrations, a daily dose of Dr. Macnamara, and every other horror of a prolonged "educational" campaign. And all about a Bill that is not intended to pass!

TRICK ECONOMIES AT THE ADMIRALTY.

THE outstanding feature of the Navy Estimates is the lowness of the new construction vote, which stands at only £7,545,000, or the smallest vote since 1899, when the outlay was £7,518,000. For comparative purposes it may be stated that for the ten years ending 1906 our average expenditure was £8,370,000. This reduction is so astonishing in view of the increased activity abroad, and the developments of invention which have forced up the cost of a battleship 80 per cent. since 1899, that it is worth while to examine the figures. The briefest perusal shows that though the abstract of the estimates is signed by every member of the Board as agreed on 29 January, the procedure in respect of the votes for new work is of such an unbusiness-like character as to indicate the hasty pruning to which they have been subjected in response to the demands of the Little Navy party. For a group of sixteen destroyers the average expenditure is to be £4,000 each. If they are to be of the freak type, called the "Swift", they are to cost £250,000 each, but if they are to be of "Amazon" class, a somewhat less sum will be required. The exact cost of these vessels is unknown, for in the case of destroyers, submarines and torpedo-boats, which have already done their trials, the Admiralty are unable or unwilling to state their cost in the Navy Estimates, this being the outcome of the new policy of paralysing Parliamentary control by extreme secrecy, while outside the House free use is made of the press for purposes of unblushing advertisement.

Twenty-four torpedo-boats and submarines are to have an average of £4,000 each appropriated to them, and here again the sum only represents a small percentage of their total cost. Four of the cruisers are each to have the princely sum of £6,743 expended on them, and by way of a *jeu d'esprit* one is to have an extra twenty shillings, or £6,744, spent on her, though every one will cost at least £350,000, and a much larger sum if they are to be a match for the 25-knot German cruisers. In other words, by means of small sums of from 1 to 3 per cent. the House is to be committed to a programme for which the bulk of the expenditure is to be provided in ensuing years. The Admiralty have surrendered to the criticisms of those who pointed to the scarcity of cruisers and destroyers which has resulted since the reign of retrenchment began in 1905, but they have postponed payment to the very year which they point to as the one in which the full force of the German naval expansion in large armoured ships will have to be met. A similar fate is incurred by the important works at Portsmouth and Rosyth. The new lock entrance to the basin at Portsmouth is a work of vital necessity, for already the "Dreadnought" and another battleship have been damaged in entering the basin. "All those who had knowledge of naval matters would know", said the Civil Lord of the Admiralty in proposing this work on March 7, 1906, "that to take a ship into a basin with both caissons open would be rather a serious matter should an accident occur, and the ships in the basin would run the risk of considerable damage." Here, then, was a permanent work of vital need which ought to be pressed to completion with rapidity, so that we might obtain the full benefit of it both from the points of view of utility and insurance. Here, as in the case of Rosyth, we find only a triumphant policy of promise, pause, prepare and postpone. In 1906 we spent nothing; in 1907 £10,000; in 1908 only £65,000 is to be voted, and the whole work is to cost £940,000 and £60,000 for machinery. The case of Rosyth is too familiar to need detailed description. It suffices to say that of a total cost of £3,387,000 we charged ourselves with £10,000 last year, and this year we shall add £35,000. When Lord Tweedmouth, in his Memorandum on 11 February, wrote that "by strict economy the Admiralty have been able

to bring down the inevitable increase to £900,000", he must have imagined members of Parliament to be singularly gullible or indifferent to the postponement of vital requirements. The manœuvres in the North Sea, in 1907, had shown the need of an immediate reinforcement of the small craft which act as the eyes of the big armoured vessels and protect them from torpedo attacks. This is nothing to the Cabinet as compared with staving off an open rupture in the Liberal party for twelve months. So nearly every single item of vital need is relegated to the very end of the financial year, while the sums set down for the two armoured ships indicate that one will be laid down in December and another in January. It is obvious that, though introduced in 1908, the programme is really one to be commenced in 1909, and the full purport of the rise in expenditure for that year will be appreciated when we quote the really significant paragraph of Lord Tweedmouth's Memorandum: "This programme suffices for 1908-9; whether and to what extent it may be necessary to enlarge it next year, or in future years, must depend upon the additions made to their naval force by foreign Powers. His Majesty's Government have every intention of maintaining the standard of the British Navy which has hitherto been deemed necessary for the safeguarding of our national and imperial interests." This paragraph obviously supplies the view of the Admiralty in reference to the fact that we are only laying down two large armoured vessels in 1908-9, the provision to meet the four large German armoured vessels being held over to 1909-10. If, as the large first instalments suggest, these latter vessels are to be built rapidly, then our five or more large armoured ships will be laid down at the beginning of the financial year 1909-10, which will be a fresh cause for inflation of estimates.

In the meantime, while the necessary provision of new destroyers is being delayed, the old policy of tinkering worn-out craft is to be resorted to in the case of old destroyers. We are told by Lord Tweedmouth that the cost of maintaining the torpedo craft in an efficient condition is increasing as the vessels get older, and many of them are due for larger boiler repairs this year. "Before carrying out this work in the older ones, a careful survey will be made to ensure that they are worth the expenditure." The public can now appreciate the true inwardness of Lord Tweedmouth's acknowledgment in 1906 when he said, "Undoubtedly I brought before the Board the desirability of economy"—a phrase which may yet have as historic a significance as the entry in the diary of his famous predecessor, Samuel Pepys, a few months prior to the Dutch fleet sailing up the Thames, viz. "We are to keep as close as we can". The number of destroyers of the 1906 programme was cut down 60 per cent. Those abandoned destroyers would be coming into commission this year to take the place of the old ones which are worn out, whereas those to be laid down under the new programme will not be available until the year 1911. In 1905 we inserted only two destroyers for repairs in the Navy Estimates, in 1906 one, in 1907 fourteen, and this year twenty-four; but whereas formerly the names were always given, the Admiralty have this year abandoned the attempt in despair. It is not surprising since, on the very date when the Admiralty stated in the House of Commons that all the destroyers in the Home Fleet were instantly ready for war, they possessed official information that over 45 per cent. were in need of repairs. The fact is the chief counts in the indictment of the Admiralty by the Navy afloat has not been so much our future strength, which the sailors generally are content to leave to the politicians, but the disgraceful neglect of all proper care of what we already possess, and the depletion of stores which has gone on, both being of the nature of trick economies which involve their Nemesis in the future. This process has begun in both cases and will fall with full force on the Navy Estimates of next year, while this year the bill for repairs has increased £700,000 and the charge for stores by a similar amount. As for stores, the facts of the depletion which has gone on were sedulously concealed until this year, and it was believed by Parliament that genuine and permanent economies had been effected. The two previous sets of estimates

submitted by the present Government were assisted to the extent of over a million sterling in each case by this adventitious aid.

It is noticeable that Lord Tweedmouth is much concerned to repel "a baseless assumption" that the Admiralty have no war plans properly worked out. So far as it is possible for secret affairs to be subjected to scrutiny, the proof lies in the vacillation of the Board itself. Numbers of vessels which Mr. Balfour was advised had been consigned to the scrapheap in 1904 by a masterly stroke of the pen are now in commission, and this year even the "Medea" of our 1886 programme, which was thus cast aside, is to be refitted at a cost of nearly £22,000. Of certain unarmoured cruisers it was declared three years ago that, "though the best of them have been retained for the present, it is recognised that they must be allowed to die out within a few years." A few years have elapsed and we are glad to see that a number of them are to undergo extensive refits this year, while more are to be built. The Channel Fleet was deprived of small craft in March last year, and they were restored in August. The North American and West Indian station was abolished, and then quietly re-established on as large a scale as ever. The Pacific squadron is in process of resuscitation. The Coastguard was threatened but has survived, while the Marines believe that they are doomed. We were solemnly assured in November, 1905, that the irreducible programme of large armoured vessels was four a year. In 1906 we laid down three and lost one, in 1907 three, and this year we propose two. These examples of violent fluctuations of policy indicate the presence of dangerous forces at the Board, and have led to the public protests of the most distinguished officials who have served there in the past.

TEMPERANCE BY PLUNDER.

THE Licensing Bill of the Government, which Mr. Asquith introduced into the House of Commons on Thursday, is even more revolutionary than had been predicted. It was very well understood that this was the occasion on which the implacable teetotalers were to be granted the gratification of their spite against the brewers and the publicans. As the Education Act of 1902 was to be torn up to appease one noisy fraction of the Government's supporters, so the Licensing Act of 1904 was to be torn up to appease another fraction equally noisy and fanatically unreasonable. There is another common feature in the two measures. The Education Bill will not in the least degree forward the cause of education; the Licensing Bill will not forward the cause of temperance even by such of its provisions as deal with the question of drinking clubs; and these are altogether outside the ordinary licensing system. So far as the cause of temperance had to be served, effective rules for clubs would have done all that legislation can still do to reduce the consumption of alcoholic liquors. Drinking clubs largely owe their existence to the uncertainties introduced into the public-house business by constant and ill-advised meddlings with the licensed trade, actuated as they always are by the openly avowed designs of the teetotalers to prohibit altogether the sale of alcoholic drinks. The "tied" houses also, against which the teetotalers now direct their animosity, are very largely the result of their efforts, which have been directed to make the business of a publican too insecure for any but the wealthiest of firms or companies to carry on. When they have accomplished this natural result of their hostility, their next step is to attempt the ruin of the system they have helped to build up by demanding a time limit to the compensation clauses in the Act of 1904; the confiscation by the State of the value of licensed premises above their value without the licences; and a free hand to extinguish without compensation in the future all licences, even including those for which the monopoly value has been appropriated. These demands are all conceded in the new Licensing Bill; and there has hitherto been no instance equal or even similar to this attack upon property and investments which are estimated at something like £250,000,000.

And here it may be pointed out that the fiscal policy of Mr. Asquith aids and abets the policy of the teetotalers. In the same way that he is proposing the special taxing of land for securing the "unearned increment", and imposing a special rate on it to meet the demands of local taxation, so he is imposing a special tax on the "unearned increment" of the holders of licences; though in this instance the whole of the increment, the monopoly value, is to be seized. The new Licensing Bill is thus not only a step in the progress of the teetotalers towards abolishing the trade, but it is a stage in Mr. Asquith's Free Trade finance, a stroke of that financial genius which was to show us how to avoid Tariff Reform by discovering fresh sources of taxation. The discovery is now made, and a very notable one it is. The Free Trade Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose great principle is that you must not tax in order to benefit a business, will tax a business to injure it at the instance of the teetotalers. What becomes of the doctrine of taxation for financial purposes only, which has been preached so pedantically whenever Tariff Reform has been proposed as something more than a revenue matter, and as involving other ulterior useful purposes and results? Mr. Asquith's time limit for the granting of compensation depreciates and renders insecure one of the largest forms of investment in the country. He may smile as a teetotaler over the consternation and distress they will cause, though as a Chancellor of the Exchequer one might expect him to sigh over the consequences to a business which contributes so largely to the revenue. Nothing but this combined, though antagonistic, teetotal and financial policy explains why the settlement of 1904 is to be undone. The compensation which has been paid under that Act has come out of a fund provided by the owners of the houses that have been allowed to continue. They have already paid some million and a half for the increased monopoly due to the extinction of the licences. When their turn comes, on the expiration of the time limit, this increased value for which they have paid will be extracted from them as part of the terms of the renewal of their own licences. So that up to this time the extinction of licences has not meant handing over to the trade an increased monopoly for nothing; there has to be deducted a heavy impost on it. This system will now go on for another fourteen years, as that is the time limit fixed by the new Bill. At the end of that period whatever value has accrued in the ordinary course from the licences will be demanded by the State as a condition for renewal; and this will be repeated from time to time. It is evident that this will upset the calculations of all who have invested or might think of investing in brewery and public-house property and shares in any form whatever. Mr. Asquith says that every prudent man must set his house in order by sinking fund or insurance. This assumes that the profits, say of every brewery company, are sufficient to pay debenture-holders and shareholders, besides forming the reserve fund. The average profits of breweries are about five per cent., and in many cases the setting aside of the whole profits for the fund for this term of years would not pay off even the debenture-holders. The shareholders would have to forgo their dividends.

But this possibility of calculation could only be on the assumption that the renewal of licences would be granted unless they were forfeited for specific legal offences. This had always been so until the wholesale extinction of licences without compensation which followed Sharpe and Wakefield in 1891; an injustice and insecurity removed by the Act of 1904, which the present Bill proposes to repeal. But this assumption cannot now be made. The Bill provides not merely that the discretion of the magistrates to refuse licences shall be largely extended, but it introduces local option, so that the magistrates may receive a mandate declaring whether they may or may not grant new licences. Nor is this all. There is to be a great restriction of the hours of opening on Sundays. In the country a public-house is not to be open for more than two or three hours. We are not considering here the moral effects of such restraints as these: whether they will or will not prevent drunkenness. We hold that they are more likely to have the opposite effect. Experience in America,

Australia, Wales and Scotland of great restrictions on the hours of closing show that so far from lessening they increase drinking. An experiment in closing houses during unusual hours was made in Glasgow and in Edinburgh; and the newspapers demanded a return to the old system as a consequence of the illicit drinking and the disorder to which the change led. The false assumption of the teetotalers is that they can either eradicate the desire for drink which about eighty per cent. of ordinary people have by nature; or that if they make drink inconvenient to obtain, people who otherwise would desire the pleasure will be content to do without it. The fanaticism of teetotalism blinds its votaries to the fact that a natural and healthy desire for stimulants, as that for alcohol is with most of us, cannot be suppressed. Prohibition, which the Bill attempts in its local option clauses, or too great restriction as in its Sunday closing, has never done more than turn open drinking into secret soaking. "If it is not a saloon, it will be a drug store" is an American saying; and half the patent medicines of America are disguised drinks. The "drug" habit is largely an alcoholic habit stimulated by bogus medicinal preparations. Such facts as these take away all reason for regarding this Bill as a temperance as distinguished from a teetotal Bill; but this negative defect of the Bill becomes more glaring in view of the objections to it in its dealings with the property and prospects of a business with millions of capital and hundreds of thousands of persons in direct dependence upon it. The Bill upsets all calculations past and future in this trade, and to speak of being prudent and forecasting probabilities in such circumstances, as Mr. Asquith does, is ill-timed jesting. It will introduce an element of deterioration and disorganisation in the character of the houses and their management. The better houses that have survived extinction since 1904 will anticipate extinction without compensation after fourteen years, and, like a farmer with his lease running out, the object of a licensee will be to make as much and spend as little as he possibly can. The fleecing of the licensee at the start of a house under a new licence will undo much of the good which might be expected from what is called disinterested management. However "disinterested" people may be, they do not intend to run public houses for nothing; and their being saddled with the monopoly value at starting, or deprived of it as it accumulates with time, might leave hardly the barest business profits and no margin for any of the benevolent projects with which the device of disinterested management has been associated. The Bill is ruinous for business and bad for philanthropy, and probably for temperance as distinguished from teetotalism.

MR. HALDANE'S APOLOGIA.

MR. HALDANE'S Memorandum is a disappointing document. It professes to give an historical retrospect of Army policy since 1815. But in reality it mainly seeks to obtain credit for measures introduced by the only successful Liberal Government of modern times—Mr. Gladstone's Administration of 1868-1874. Still the reference to and quotations from Mr. Gladstone on military matters are distinctly unfortunate. This was one subject, at any rate, with which he was completely out of sympathy. We now know from the Sidney Herbert Memoirs what antipathy he felt toward expenditure on defence and service matters, and we also know how graphically Lord Palmerston put this point when he told Queen Victoria that it would be better to lose Mr. Gladstone than endanger our security. Mr. Cardwell is, of course, a great asset to the Government in military affairs. So Mr. Haldane makes the most of him. His far-reaching schemes, it is claimed, brought the Army and the Auxiliary Forces in touch. But in this endeavour we know that the scheme entirely failed. They were not brought into touch with each other; and the two bodies are so absolutely different that it is unlikely they ever will be in touch. Of course Mr. Cardwell was a great War Minister; and much admirable work was done under his auspices to bring the Army up to date. But for all

the schemes it is idle now to give Mr. Cardwell the sole credit. We know from a Memorandum by General Peel, published in the *Military Life of the Duke of Cambridge*, that the so-called Cardwell scheme of short service and reserve was actually foreshadowed by General Peel, and almost every detail as subsequently adopted was worked out in it. Mr. Cardwell, however, got all the credit. Indeed the whole of Mr. Haldane's Memorandum is an apology for further reduction; and, to appease the extremists, promises are even made for still further reductions in the future.

We are first favoured with an elaborate outline of the military policy between 1815 and 1862. But during this period there was really no system at all. Every Government vied with every other in cutting down everything to the very lowest point; and the muddle in the Crimea was the painful result. Mr. Haldane then shows the so-called benefits of the system afterwards inaugurated—about the worst period in the whole of our military history. After the Crimea, the Mutiny, and the French scare, the usual nonsense was talked about no great war being possible in the future; with the result that had it not been for the unceasing efforts of the Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge, during the 'sixties, we should have had no Army. This was the fault of both parties alike; and we would make no party capital out of this discreditable state of affairs. It was not indeed till the great struggles of 1866 and 1870 roused people to realise that the era of big wars had not disappeared from the world that something was done by the Government. The short service and reserve system was then inaugurated, and stood us in good stead during later crises. But this was not due to any particular foresight on the part of Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Cardwell. It was merely the natural outcome of contemporary events and the lessons learnt from the Prussian Army. Indeed, in one of the first letters written by the Duke of Cambridge to Mr. Cardwell as War Secretary, attention was called to the lack of an adequate reserve. The policy, then as now, was to reduce colonial garrisons, not because the Government was convinced that these were unnecessary, but simply because it afforded a specious excuse for reduction. So troops were recalled, and in many cases this step was justifiable and beneficial to the Army. But it was owing to the extension of this policy that we found ourselves in a disastrous position in South Africa during the Boer War of 1881, and in an impossible one in 1899. This policy is now to be carried still further, and one cavalry and four infantry regiments are to be recalled from South Africa. The Colonial Secretary is said to agree, but we shall perhaps be excused for not being particularly impressed by his assent. Perhaps, too, Mr. Haldane may have forgotten one recent result of this policy. A few years ago the Egyptian garrison was reduced, and the cavalry regiment—which of all other armed units was most necessary there—was recalled, with the result that it speedily became necessary to send it out again. There can never be any valid reason for reducing the strength of our armed forces, the establishment itself being always below requirements; and every great crisis in our history for the last hundred and fifty years has found us without an adequate supply of men. Moreover when reductions have been made it has always proved necessary to resort to the old standard, with the result that we have had to spend millions when a timely expenditure of thousands would have sufficed.

To come to details. The estimates for 1908-9 amount to £27,459,000 as against £27,760,000 for 1907-8: this small reduction is a snub to the anti-militarists; on which we congratulate Mr. Haldane. But we do not congratulate him on lopping five thousand men off the real Army in order to provide more money for the sham. Mr. Haldane assumes that his expeditionary force of six divisions, mainly composed of reservists and auxiliaries, is precisely the number of men the country requires, and that it is a great improvement on our previous war preparations. How futile it is to lay down a rigid figure like this, and take credit for it, is only too well exemplified by the famous Stanhope Minute, often called erroneously the "Stanhope Memorandum". This stated that two Army Corps were necessary, which at the time was certainly in

advance of preconceived notions. But what did these avail at the time of the South African War, ready as they actually were to take the field; or what would they have availed even if, in addition to being ready, they had been completely equipped with reserves of stores, which they were not? Now, on the other hand, we have only one force in any sense ready on an emergency—the Aldershot command. The remainder is sketchy, though good as far as it goes. But it requires a large number of auxiliaries to make it fit for service. How then are we better off now than we were in 1899? Mr. Haldane has always been significantly reticent as to the state of the reserve of stores, one of the most vital points. Worse still, there is the forecast of still further reductions—of course to please the extremists—and we note that even one of our few cavalry regiments is apparently threatened. Mr. Haldane takes credit to himself that the actual number of men now serving is not much greater than in 1899. Our terrible difficulty in those dark days is comment enough on Mr. Haldane's snug complacency.

THE CITY.

WE cannot say that Mr. Maguire's speech at the Chartered meeting was very inspiring, though it was dignified, and free from the share-pusher's bombast, for which we are really grateful. It has not altered the opinion which we expressed last week, that, whatever the political or patriotic attractions of Rhodesia, it does not sing to us as a business proposition. Last year the working capital of the British South Africa Company in cash and liquid assets was £825,000; to-day it is £206,000. Railway obligations stand for £200,000; depreciation in assets, £30,000; loans to railway companies, £300,000 (to meet interest); and £90,000 for the purchase of rolling stock. In any other commercial company this account would be reckoned disastrous. The guarantees of railway bonds and the loans to railways to pay interest, amounting to £500,000, are the really serious feature of the situation. Unless the Rhodesian railways turn the corner this year, and meet the interest on their debts, another half-million will be swallowed up. Mr. Maguire made one rather curious slip towards the end of his speech. "In the opinion of the board", he said, "if they" (i.e. the shareholders) "acceded to the proposals, no further money would be required, and the capital account would be closed." If this be so, what becomes of the main inducement to take the new shares, namely, the right to subscribe for a similar share in 1910, and for another similar share in 1912?

There is no market in the Stock Exchange which is more completely under the thumb of the jobbers than the Argentine railway market. If the Argentine jobbers want to stop the liquidation of a particular account, or if, thinking the bull account too large, they wish to force out weak operators, they simply mark prices down regardless of traffic returns. The Argentine traffics were a magnificent showing on Wednesday; £20,868 increase for the Rosario, £21,343 increase for Buenos Aires and Pacific, £14,950 for Great Southern. Yet immediately after the carry-over prices were calmly marked down a point. Rosarios, which "made up" at 112, were almost immediately afterwards called 111 to 111½. This sort of behaviour on the part of the jobbers is not calculated to make the Argentine market popular, and we should have thought that customers were so scarce nowadays that the dealers would have encouraged rather than repelled them. However, these are the tricks of the trade, and Rosarios are undeniably cheap at present prices.

It is seldom that we read the report of a financial company with so much interest and satisfaction as that of the Anglo-Canadian Finance Company. This concern, with the modest capital of £21,750, pays 9 per cent. on its ordinary shares, and 1s. 5d. on its shilling deferred shares, which is nearly 150 per cent. With a paid-up capital of £21,750 it possesses liquid assets of £39,100, together with shares acquired as commission of a face value of more than £40,000. It looks as if £20,000 had been turned into £80,000, or will be some day. The chairman, Mr. John R. Tennant, and his

colleagues are to be congratulated on this splendid result, which contrasts very favourably with the achievements of that haughty failure, the Chartered Company, which has swallowed up so many millions and never paid a dividend. The infatuation of the British public for South Africa, and its inexplicable neglect of Canada, by far the richest country in the Empire, are the most striking facts of the age. Mr. Tennant and his co-directors have earned these profits for the shareholders out of two cement companies, a colliery, and a timber company, all in Western Canada. Coal, cement, and timber are better business than gold and diamonds, because less subject to violent fluctuations. Can anything be more pitiable than the present position of the so-called diamond industry, and the consequent situation of the De Beers and Premier Companies? The De Beers Company has simply reduced its output by half, and we are informed that diamonds are selling in Hatton Garden for ludicrous prices. The Americans, "always in extremes", are putting down everything in the way of luxury, and the import of diamonds into the United States has fallen to almost a negligible quantity. What is the consequence? De Beers Deferred, which rose to 29 about a year ago, have fallen to 13, and they are talked down to 10. It is very likely that they will sink to this point, as the demand for diamonds can hardly revive for another year or so; but De Beers Preferred are safe enough.

The Consolidated Trust has done so well for the last three or four years that its issue of £145,000 debentures, 4½ per cents., will surely be taken by its own shareholders and the investing as distinguished from the speculative public. The revenue of the Trust is close on £50,000, while the interest on the debentures (including the new issue) is just over £20,000. The Baltimore and Ohio Railway is issuing some 5 per cent. one year's notes at 99½, which are quite safe.

THE FAILURE OF ASSESSMENT INSURANCE.

IN the year 1881 the Mutual Reserve Fund was started in the United States of America. It adopted the assessment plan of life insurance, under which people had to pay for their policies according to the claims made upon the company as the result of death among the members. For a great many years no attempt was made to accumulate funds, and since the deaths in a life office are comparatively few during the early years of its existence and so long as an increasingly large new business is being transacted, the policyholders were called upon to pay very little until recently. The attractions of these small premiums proved very great, and the Mutual Reserve Fund did a very large business not only in the States but in the United Kingdom also. For a few years—from 1895 to 1899—the premium income of the Company exceeded £1,000,000; then the difficulties inherent in an unsound system made themselves felt, and an effort was made to establish the business on a less unsound basis. This task proved impossible, and the company has now passed into the hands of a receiver.

Some English policyholders took proceedings against the company and obtained judgment for the return of all the premiums that had been paid, on the ground that they were induced to become policyholders by misrepresentation. The company, however, kept on defending claims for return of premiums, in spite of the fact that previous adverse decisions made subsequent adverse decisions a certainty. Without a moment's notice the company closed all its offices in the United Kingdom and removed from this country all the assets which it held here. Policyholders who wished to continue the payment of premiums had to remit to New York and communicate on all matters with the head office of the company there. The company has the right, under its old policies, to make calls of an almost unlimited amount upon the members, whose policies lapse if the calls are not paid. The latest specimen is one which is due for payment on 9 March. A man who started with an annual premium of about £3 10s. for a policy of £200 is now asked to pay £4

as the premium for two months, in addition to a special call of £30, and calls upon other policyholders are of the same character.

English policyholders are being particularly badly treated because, without any notice being given to them, a special charge against English policies, reducing the sum payable at death, has been entered in the books of the company in order to provide the cost of the proceedings in the English Law Courts. It is considered by the Insurance Department of the State of New York that these and other charges and calls are illegal, and their validity will doubtless be tested in the American Courts.

We cannot see that it matters very much to policyholders, except perhaps the owners of policies which have recently become claims, whether these charges are legal or illegal. It is manifest that the company is now in a condition of such hopeless insolvency, and that the contributions of policyholders would have to be so excessive before the business could be put on a sound basis, that it is entirely opposed in the interests of any policyholders who can obtain life assurance elsewhere to continue the payment of these calls or premiums. Many policyholders hesitate to let their policies lapse, even when excessive demands are made upon them. We feel confident that in this case, however, it is the only thing to be done and that to pay any further premiums is merely to throw good money after bad.

The fate of the Mutual Reserve Fund, a fate which everybody acquainted with the subject knew from the outset was inevitable sooner or later, is bound to overtake other companies working on kindred lines; and policyholders in such other companies should learn the lesson which policyholders in the Mutual Reserve would have done well to learn before now, that it is useless to pay increasingly large sums to concerns which have failed in the past and are manifestly unsound. Nothing but loss can result from giving heed to the appeals made to the ignorant to support a cause that is hopelessly lost in some vague expectation that the miraculous will happen, that the insolvent will become solvent, that the failure will be a success, and that a state of things already as bad as possible will somehow become superlatively good. These things do not happen, and those who pay their money in the expectation that they will occur can be certain that they will lose what they pay.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PROCEDURE.*

II.—FINANCIAL CONTROL.

THE history of the system by which the House of Commons can control the finances of the country has two great dates. They are 1688 and 1866. The first is the date at which it was finally declared by the Bill of Rights that "levying money for or to the use of the Crown . . . without grant of Parliament . . . is illegal". The second is the year in which, by the passing of the Magna Charta of our present financial system, the Exchequer and Audit Act, 1866, a complete machinery was first set up by which Parliament could ensure that the money it had granted was not spent otherwise than it had directed. The one Act, in short, declared the right of Parliament to grant or to withhold supply; the other its no less important right to follow and control expenditure. On those two rights the financial power of Parliament depends; in them it consists; and, so far as either is impaired, so far the control of Parliament is weakened.

Professor Redlich has devoted four chapters of his third volume to a consideration of the financial procedure of the House of Commons; and it is fair to say that his account of this difficult matter, so far as it goes, is clear, simple and sound. More one does not expect from any professor; and his treatment of the subject may be sincerely commended to anyone wishing

* "The Procedure of the House of Commons." By Josef Redlich. With an Introduction and Supplementary Chapter by Sir Courtenay Ilbert K.C.S.I., Clerk of the House of Commons. 3 vols. London: Constable. 1908. 31s. 6d. net.

to make some acquaintance with the main and more obvious features of our system of Parliamentary finance. But we are bound to add that as a real and living exposition of that system his account, despite its great learning, is not complete. Nor indeed could it well be so. For the Professor's method is purely anatomical. He states mere facts—arranges bones. And, like all who attempt to explain a living organism in such terms, he fails, we think, of real effect. He has become so immersed in the facts themselves that he has not realised their trend and meaning. He talks throughout, for instance, as though the power of the House of Commons to control finance were as real and undoubted as it seems in theory. He fails apparently to see that this power in practice is being slowly whittled away; and that the financial control which former generations of Parliament-men won so dearly is now being tamely surrendered by their successors to the Caucus and the permanent clerk. Nor is it strange that Professor Redlich should have failed to notice so insidious a change. For, in the words of Junius, "the forms of Parliament are made use of to destroy the substance". The great fabric of control still stands. From Vienna, no doubt, it looks as strong as ever. But its mighty frontage has become a mere façade, enclosing not an altar but a tomb.

Levying money for the use of the Crown without grant of Parliament is illegal. So says the Bill of Rights. And so say we all. Yet during the financial year 1906-7 no less a sum than 88½ millions, or 68 per cent. of the whole tax-revenue of the year, was levied from our people under permanent enactments which would continue in force if no Parliament ever met in England again. And during the present year this amount will be raised to over 92 millions, or 72 per cent. of the whole. This sum, no doubt, has all at one time or other been granted by Parliament. But it has been granted as a permanence; it needs no yearly renewal; and it is thus entirely withdrawn from that annual review which alone is effective for control. It is quite true that previous Parliaments have agreed to this withdrawal, and that any future Parliament might rescind it. But Parliament does not do so. Nor, in fact, can it do so. For to such a proposal no Minister would agree; and any Parliament which insisted on it would merely insist upon its own demise. So far as Parliament is concerned, therefore, this vast grant of over ninety millions is as inevitable as to-morrow's sun. The Cabinet, indeed, can vary it. There is the point. For when once the orders of a Cabinet are issued, the Parliament in fact must acquiesce or die. It has indeed a choice. But it is a choice between its money and its life.

Moreover if it be, as Professor Redlich says, a "fundamental principle" that "all taxes and public burdens imposed upon the nation for purposes of State, whatsoever their nature, must be granted by Parliament", how comes it that every year some ten millions of money is spent by the various Departments which Parliament has not only never granted but may not even discuss? It is, indeed, a curious commentary on the difficulties of the subject that Professor Redlich makes no reference to the system of Appropriation-in-Aid, and appears never to have heard of it. Yet that system is now an accepted part of our financial machinery, and is a direct and standing infraction of House of Commons control. Its working is simplicity itself. The spending Departments have every year large receipts of their own. These receipts, amounting in the aggregate to some ten millions yearly, are all spent upon purposes of State. Yet they are neither granted by Parliament nor even paid into the Exchequer. They are merely kept in the hands of the Departments, and are spent by them in aid of their real and in diminution of their apparent expenditure, at the sole discretion not of the House of Commons but of the Treasury. They are in fact, as their name implies, "appropriated" by the Departments; and what the House of Commons is asked to vote in Supply, and what alone it does vote, is not the total gross amount which the Departments are to spend, but only the net amount which remains after that gross total has been reduced by deduction of the appropriations-in-aid. Over these last Parliament has

no control whatever at any stage. It votes no part of them; it can refuse no part of them; it has no means of touching them in any way. This ten millions, in fact (pace Professor Redlich's fundamental principle), is granted to the Crown every year not by the House of Commons at all but by the Treasury. It is quite true that the Treasury makes these grants by virtue of power originally derived from Parliament. But the terms in which that power is given amount, so far as these grants are concerned, to a formal abdication by the House of Commons in favour of the Treasury. Section 2 (2) of the Public Accounts and Charges Act 1891 enacts in set terms that "all money directed by the Treasury to be applied as an appropriation in aid of money provided by Parliament for any purpose shall be deemed to be money provided by Parliament for that purpose, and shall, without being paid into the Exchequer, be applied, audited and dealt with accordingly". Is this control by Parliament or control by the Treasury? And are the new procedure rules—under which, as Professor Redlich points out, the House of Commons at the end of every session "votes immense sums in a few minutes, many of them for items which have never been mentioned to the House"—are these no infraction of Parliamentary control? The Professor himself tells us that on 9 August, 1904, a sum of £31,224,231 was voted at one blow, and without any possibility of either question or inquiry, by the sovereign House of Commons. Can this in any real sense be called control? We venture to say that if any private person "controlled" the expenditure of his servants in this way, it would be said that it was not he who controlled his servants but his servants who controlled him.

Nor is it only its granting powers that the House of Commons has allowed to be thus gnawed away and handed to Departments. Its further power of seeing that no expenditure is made except as it has directed—the principle, that is, of Parliamentary appropriation—has been at least equally impaired.

The Act of 1866 set up, as we have said, a complete machinery by which the House could see that the money it had granted was only spent in strict accordance with its own express directions. According to that machinery the Estimates originally presented to the House declare the various purposes for which money is required, and the sum required for each. The House considers these demands successively in the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means; and, having there resolved to make the necessary grants, it proceeds, by the Appropriation Act at the end of the Session, expressly to appropriate them, not in mere lumps for the general service of Departments, but "for the services and purposes expressed" in a detailed schedule of the Act. After the passing of this Act, and with great formalities—in the case of the supply services a Royal Order under the Sign-Manual countersigned by two Lords of the Treasury, a requisition by the Treasury to the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and that officer's credit are all three necessary—the money may be issued from the Exchequer on imprest to the Departments concerned. After the money has been expended, i.e. after 31 March, each spending Department makes up its appropriation account, showing the actual way in which every halfpenny has in fact been spent. This is finally signed by the Accounting Officer of the Department (whose responsibility for the legality and regularity of all its expenditure is personal, to the shirt on his back), and, so signed, the account is transmitted before 30 November to that great officer of the House of Commons, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, for his audit and scrutiny. This must be completed and the account sent to the Treasury by 15 January next following; and by the 31st of that month the fully audited accounts, with the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report and remarks on every vote, are presented to Parliament by the Treasury. Parliament refers them to the Public Accounts Committee, which, meeting weekly throughout the Session, freely examines and questions the responsible Accounting Officers concerned upon any points of doubt or irregularity raised either by the Comptroller and Auditor-General in his Report or by members of

the Committee itself. Towards the end of the Session the Committee presents its final Report to the House; and, on the presentation of this Report, a debate in the House itself is now usual. Thus the chain of financial responsibility to the House of Commons is completed, and the House is able, if it wishes, to see whether and to what extent its original directions as to expenditure have been complied with. Such is the theory. Yet here again the power which Parliament has in theory to ensure compliance with its directions has been meekly abandoned. The Appropriation Act indeed solemnly appropriates the grants. But a usual clause in the body of that same Act empowers the Treasury, in the case of the Army and Navy votes (which are the greatest of all), to allow the Departments utterly to disregard the appropriation of Parliament by applying savings on one vote to make good excesses incurred upon others. Moreover, these Departments have a customary power of their own mere motion to spend money granted solely for one purpose on any other purpose named in the same sub-head, and even, where no change of policy is involved, on the purposes of some quite different sub-head in the same vote. Thus, having every year with great care expressly set forth the purposes on which alone its grants are to be expended, the House of Commons folds its hands and allows all its directions in this respect to be totally disregarded either by the simple fiat of the spending Department itself or, in larger cases, by the spending Department in alliance with the Treasury. It is not surprising that, under such a system, the actual destination of the money is commonly quite different from that for which alone it was voted; nor that the tendency towards heavy over-estimating should increase in order that, within the gross total of its pooled vote, the Department may always find as large a movable balance as possible. The only Parliamentary restriction, indeed, that under this system a Department need respect is that of the gross total of its vote. This must not be exceeded; and it seldom is. For if it were the Department would be forced to come again to the House of Commons; and this it will avoid at any cost. Thus Parliament can still set a limit to the total cost of a Department. But, in present circumstances, it does no more. Within that total its appropriation wholly fails, and that of the "controlled" Departments has usurped its place. Nor is it any answer to say that all this is done with Parliamentary sanction, that Parliament could forbid it if it would, and so forth. No doubt Parliament could forbid it. But it does not forbid it. It could resent it. It does not resent it. And the point is that, until it does so, it is idle to talk, except in text-books, of the reality of Parliamentary control.

In old days the financial enemy was the Crown. That enemy we have long ago defeated. But, since power must lie somewhere and always in a few hands, a new and far more dangerous enemy has arisen in the immortal Minister. Day by day it is becoming more apparent that Democracy only means Bureaucracy; day by day vast new buildings along Whitehall attest the march of progress—and of taxes. In time, no doubt, these ever-growing Departments will surround the Palace of Westminster itself; their huge parapets will frown above its slender windows, their shadows lie like shrouds upon its roof. In that day the clerk, the official, and the Minister will flourish. But Parliament will be gone.

G. S. B.

STATUTORY CONFISCATION.

THE Government is now definitely committed to Compulsory Purchase for Congestion, and I try to put in a word about each "Irish idea" before it becomes law. There is not one "difficulty" with the last Land Act that I did not point out at the time, and readers of the SATURDAY REVIEW will remember that I did the same for the Evicted Tenants Act, which remains unworkable except in so far as it works evil. There are plenty other Irish Nationalists who see these things, but they are not in a position to say what they see.

Both the measures mentioned were socialistic, in a

bad sense, financing inefficiency through the State at the expense of the efficient; but the measure now promised is outright socialism, in the worst sense, compelling sale for the most inefficient of all, dictated by ecclesiastical communism in Ireland, supported by agnostic socialism in Great Britain, and to be administered through a medium that stands discredited by its own exponents. Lord Dudley and Sir Antony MacDonnell join in declaring that the Congested Districts Board is practically useless, while authorities more in touch with the facts tell us that much of the taxpayers' money intended to relieve congestion finds its way into the pockets of people selected for the disbursement, with lands and houses "sold" to ecclesiastics for a fifth of their market value.

When I was giving evidence on congestion, Mr. Conor O'Kelly M.P. sprang the railway analogy on me, and the principle involved is one that ought to be better understood, in Great Britain as well as in Ireland. By their nature, and through peculiar conditions of our time, some concerns require collective control, where free competition is impracticable, and its function has to be provided in some other way. For instance, we cannot well have an unlimited number of competing tram-lines worked in the same street. In accordance with that principle, the Legislature sanctions compulsory sale where the private owner might be in a position to defeat a public right, as in the case of land wanted for a railway. The instances requiring any departure from the free principle, either in sale or in control, are comparatively few, of a kind that must keep them always few; and on the whole our communities, at least outside Ireland, are learning in practice how to differentiate these few and peculiar interests from those of the nation as a whole, so much better with free competition.

No such considerations apply as between landlord and tenant in regard to agricultural land. Private ownership does not prevent agriculture as it might prevent the building of a railway; and even if it did, the right denied would be only the right of a class, not that of the nation, as in the case of the railway. Besides, the use to the nation of land privately owned tends to rise with the intelligence of the owner, who, in his own interest, will try to have the most efficient tenants, selecting to get the soil occupied by the fittest, which of course makes for its highest production and the greatest good of the country. It is in this way that we find Scotch farmers, on comparatively bad land, fattening Irish cattle that the Irish do not know how to feed on some of the best land in Europe. Freedom and efficiency make the Scotch acre worth more to Scotland than the Irish acre of twice its natural fertility is to Ireland; and when the Irishman fails to work to his opportunities, Parliament steps in to disguise his inefficiency in a statute that gives him something which belongs to his neighbour, necessarily encouraging inefficiency, and thereby destroying the Irish people. Nothing can compensate the want of efficiency, but the Government legislates to accommodate inefficiency, at the expense of the efficient, bringing the nation nearer to ruin with every pretence to improve it, while the clergy, in their desire to dominate public life, take care to prevent the election of men who could see these things, because such men might be less easy to control. In this way, Nationalism itself sinks lower every year, as anything must that incessantly suppresses its higher characteristics for the supremacy of its lower.

Though Compulsory Purchase is demanded, the demand is not in the interests of the nation, but in the interest of the agrarians, because these have the votes; and then, though the socialism of compulsion is conceded by the Government, every economic disability alleged against the present ownership is to be continued in the new, with many additional disabilities, more deadly than those alleged. The new owner must have his title as nearly absolute, but there is no provision to have his intelligence or his conscience as high, so that his responsibilities to the nation in regard to the land must remain less regarded. He is less capable to see his own interest in the efficient use of the soil. When he lets his land to others, as he does largely already, it is at a rent more than twice as high as was charged by the old landlord, and I have known it eight times

as high. He is less capable to select efficient tenants. He wants to be rid of the labourer, and does not know how to make labour profitable, so that the labourer disappears from Ireland with the old landlord, while more new houses are built for him at the public expense. The new landlord, a member of the public body, is always trying to get the labourer's cottage built on any farm but his own. If his estate be small he works it with his own labour; if it be larger, he wants to live by it without work, excluding the labourer in either case; and when he works it himself, the fertility is generally falling, which means diminishing the natural wealth of the country. I have seen many such new freeholds "striped" out of ranches, and in nearly every case the fertility has fallen after three or four years. Give the Irish peasant a choice between a higher standard of living, with more efficiency, and his present standard, with more "ease", and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he will prefer the latter, because in his outlook on life progress is not worth the additional and higher exercise of his faculties. Here we find our education at the bottom of all, making the statutes useless, but the priest has his foot on it, and though Mr. Birrell calls it "repulsive", he dares not press any improvement on his clerical allies. Instead of permitting the people to be educated and efficient, the priest teaches them to covet their neighbour's ass and their neighbour's ox, and our Radical Nonconformist in office proposes to Parliament a further instalment of Socialism for the accommodation of the immorality. Such being the men for whom others must be forced to sell the land, where is the advantage to the nation? It is not even honest socialism.

The sole advantage is to those who trade in Nationalism. They want to complete the triumph of mediocrity, by which they exist in public life. The presence of an educated layman working his own land is regarded as most undesirable in the parish, and the parish is the determining unit in politics. Such a layman has some independence of character, and his labourers also may have some, under his economic protection, which is against the dominion of the trader in mobs; therefore force that layman to sell, and replace him with persons sufficiently ignorant and slavish to be obedient. Cardinal Logue lays down the law, Mr. Birrell brings in the Bill, and Parliament is asked to vote money for making the presence of the educated layman impossible in the country. Remove him, and the schools may be relied upon to prevent the like of him arising again; so may the Universities, with a degree of value impossible under the direction of the priest, and "perdition" for the layman who prefers any other direction. It is most strange that the British people, probably the least cruel of all the peoples, can go on passing Acts and voting money to perfect and to perpetuate such cruelties against the people of Ireland.

Why do they call it "compulsory purchase"? No one is compelled to buy. If the tenant were compelled to buy, as the owner is compelled to sell, it might look still more idiotic; but it would be much less dishonest than applying the compulsion only to one party in the transaction. Such is the Irish sense of justice, promulgated as a moral creed by ministers of a Christian religion, the monopolists in morality laying it down as a law that the owner of property must be forced to sell, for the convenience of his neighbour, who is all the time exempt from any corresponding responsibility. The Irish people are naturally better than this, but they may offer no opinions, especially on moral issues, which naturally tends to deprive them of a moral sense; and when one among them does dare to offer opinions, the Government is incapable to defend his individual freedom. Why not secure individual freedom first of all, so that it may be possible to ascertain what the Irish people do think? Instead of teaching the people to think, and enabling them to develop a moral sense, their moral guides appeal to their greed for what belongs to their neighbour, with the Nonconformist Conscience, backed by agnostic Radicalism, to finance the legislative fraud from the Imperial purse.

Why such unanimity for "Compulsory Purchase" among our "priests and people"? Irish land is always in the market, at the market price. Why not buy it? There is plenty of it on sale, more than they want for

congestion. Then, why compulsion? Because they want it at less than market price. Mr. Birrell may make a week's speech on his Bill, but his proposal has no real ground except to give to a class, by statutory confiscation, what belongs to another class; and yet the British, with their own statesmen acting in this way, blame the Irish for their ill-feeling between class and class. How can Ireland help being ruined by class bitterness while the Imperial Parliament enacts and endows it, confiscating one class to-day and another to-morrow, with no apparent motive above conciliating for British convenience the Irish tyranny that happens to be uppermost in Ireland for the time? Less than half a century ago, the law enabled and encouraged our landlords to confiscate our peasants; and now that our peasants have "the vote", with all their votes in the priest's pocket, our peasants are set confiscating our landlords; and all this on the Imperial plea that Parliament affords "the same justice" in Ireland as in Great Britain. Why, judging from its enactments, the Imperial Parliament would appear to be always in a state of profound ignorance regarding Ireland.

Assuming Compulsory Purchase equitable in other respects, it must be inequitable in practice; for, with everybody's life subject to mob dominion, the man capable of equity has difficulty in practising it, apart from the rarity of his appointment in such administrative work. Compulsion must require arbitration to fix the prices, but the Government is incapable to safeguard such individual freedom as could make arbitration equitable—in a country where men dare not respect their oaths when serving on a jury. Then see how such posts are filled. Last year an Irish "expert" employed by Government to assess the value of land and its cropping capacity failed to recognise flax growing in a field. It is not a year since three of the greatest personages in our official agriculture, visiting my own farm, confessed that they could not understand how my results were produced, and got me to deliver an elementary lecture to them in the field, though they pocketed annual pay for their inefficiency and ignorance to the extent of £4,000, at the expense of the taxpayer. A member of the Royal Commission on Congestion, Mr. McMurragh Cavanagh, puts this amazing question: "Do you put forward the price paid for the tenant's interest as an evidence of the value of land?" How can we have confidence in such tribunals while a gentleman is made a Royal Commissioner who does not appear to have heard about the law of Supply and Demand? Accordingly the Commission recommends compulsory purchase, and Mr. Cavanagh gets a seat in Parliament from those who are to gain by the confiscation. Ireland is now full of tribunals to set aside economic facts under clerical direction, and, of course, confidence in them grows less every day; yet it is proposed to endow one more such tribunal, worse than any of the others, not to mention the precedent set against the freedom of the individual to sell or to retain his own property.

Putting aside all other objections, the thing must break down in practice through the incapability of those for whom the land is to be got by compulsion. The land they want is now under cattle, and since the cattle can make more per acre out of it than the congested peasants, it has a higher value than those peasants can meet, which makes the scheme unworkable—unless an accommodating arbitration authority, coerced by priests and their politicians, should extend the margin of confiscation to cover the difference between the efficiency of the cow and that of the farmer. There is some hope in the implied confession that the agitator has failed to destroy the value of property to the extent required, but it rests with Parliament to say whether the failure of the agitator shall be accommodated by statutory confiscation dictated through clericalism and socialism.

The real solution would be the increased efficiency of the congested peasant, by which he might meet the higher value put into the land by the more efficient cattle, a necessity which the peasant must face in any case before he can hold the land, even assuming that he had it; but here again we touch education, and the priest will permit no one to control it but himself, while his Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, argues that the average priest, ill-educated and deficient

in "a sense of honour", is unfit to control education. The British statesman who wants to know what makes Irish problems for the present insoluble has but to examine our educational conditions and the tyrannies of our own that deprive us of the free use of our faculties in the affairs of life.

On both sides of a fence we have land of the same natural value, with cattle on one side and peasants on the other; but, owing to the causes explained, the land held by the cattle is worth fifty per cent. more in the year than the land held by the peasants, with the difference of the capitalised value in proportion. The peasants, having degraded their own side of the fence, are obviously incapable to meet the higher value, annual or capitalised, of the other side. If the Government buy for them at market price, and they accept the bargain, they cannot meet the higher annual charge, unless for a few years while they are exhausting the natural fertility. Hence the need for cattle-driving, and to persecute the owner of the cattle; and when these methods fail, then, statutory confiscation of the difference. Assuming the confiscation enacted, and the transfer complete, the value of the new farms must tend down to the level of the farmers' inefficiency, making it profitable for the cattleman to repurchase the land for cattle, and creating prairies over again. As a matter of fact, the extension of grass and the removal of the peasants through their own inefficiency goes on at this moment throughout the country; and while the Irish themselves dare not discuss the causes, the British vote money in their ignorance of Ireland, to benefit nobody but those who "lead the people". There is no solution but efficiency, there is no efficiency without industrial education, there is no industrial education while the priest controls it, and there is no one with enough courage to propose any other control. Meanwhile, emigration and depopulation increase with the increased imperial expenditure on Ireland. Such is the organised ruin of a nation that is now proposed to be carried a stage further by the Chief Secretary.

PAT.

THE O. U. D. S.

FUN, I take it, is the prime object of an amateur dramatic society. Some of the members may happen to have an innate talent for acting, and may be keen to develop this talent, with the idea of going on the stage professionally. Some of them, too, may be imbued with a love of dramatic literature, and a desire to realise through their own persons this and that play which have especially impressed their imaginations. But for most of them the whole thing is merely a frolic. Even a quite ordinary back drawing-room becomes romantic, gathers about itself something of the mysterious charm of a theatre, so soon as a play is rehearsed in it. In every normal young man or woman survives much of the child's love of make-believe, and the child's love of dressing up to intensify the illusion. To learn a long part by heart is rather a bore, certainly; but how very amply you are recompensed when you recite it, with appropriate gestures and grimaces, before a mirror! And then, at rehearsal, the pleasure of seeing what fools the other people are making of themselves, or (if your nature be a genial one) of seeing how infinitely better they are than the celebrated professionals on whose styles they have respectively modelled theirs! All these joys pale for you beside the joy of broaching the parcel from the costumier's, and the parcel from the wig-maker's, and wildly experimenting with grease-paint, for the dress-rehearsal. "On the night", until you have spoken your first words, your raptures are probably overcome by your nervousness; but once those first words are out, you have an evening of unalloyed bliss. You do not wonder that professional actors so often get their heads turned and give themselves airs. Your head is turned utterly by the applause that the audience lavishes on you; and you are too happy to be sensitive to the fact that a similar result is by similar means produced on every one of your fellow-mimes. Far be it from me, in the ordinary course of things, to hush that applause. I know how to behave myself on these festive occasions. Having been invited in a private capacity to a

private entertainment, I feel that my duty is to clap my hands vigorously at brief intervals throughout the performance, like my neighbours, and afterwards to radiate the most lustrous compliments to all concerned. This duty I perform with all my heart.

I am thus calling special attention to my heart, in case you should judge me, by what follows, heartless. When an amateur dramatic company gives a public performance, and invites critics to attend it and write about it, I feel that I ought to curb my humane impulses, and only to applaud and praise as my critical faculty dictates. Of course I do not expect amateurs to act so well as professionals, and would not bitterly decry in them the faults for which in professionals no censure were too harsh. Only I do not feel myself impelled to write rapturously about them when they are bad, larding out the very epithets that I keep for professionals when they are good. Had I not gone to Oxford last Wednesday to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" acted by the O. U. D. S., I should have been led (by the "Daily Telegraph," for example) to believe that every member of the company was by way of being a gifted and finished artist. (I fancy it was not the eye of Mr. W. L. Courtney, a steady and ex-proctorial orb, that saw the play for the "Daily Telegraph".) Doubtless, such criticisms give great pleasure to the performers, and to their relations and friends. But ought one not to feel a little sorry for the people in London, who, fired by such criticisms, hastily pack their portmanteaux and rush off to Oxford so as not to miss a presumably great treat? And ought one not to shed a tear for the performers themselves, who are led to suppose that Fate intended them to shine on the professional stage, that they have really nothing to learn, and that it is a pity they have to stay in Oxford at present and study for non-histrionic "degrees"? I hereby drop that tear and the remark that I never saw an amateur performance which seemed to me worse, all round, than this performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

In Oxford, of course, a dramatic society is heavily handicapped by the spirit of the place. "The Oxford manner", which all undergraduates catch more or less saliently, is in itself a distinguished and delightful manner, I think. But the calmness of it, the suavity and evenness of it, is the very negation of what goes to make effective acting. Oxford teaches you to seem not to commit yourself, not to unbosom yourself, to be gently aloof. Mr. W. R. Foss, this year, as in many previous years, has been imported as "producer" for the O. U. D. S. He is a clever teacher; but what can he avail against the inveterate spirit of the Benign Mother? The undergraduates who play the lovers in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and those who play the comic peasants, doubtless enjoy themselves very much, and doubtless would like to appear to be doing so. But how tame and dull is their effect! How terribly afraid they seem of demeaning themselves! The lady who plays Helena gives a reading of one passage which seems as if it must have been suggested to her by her undergraduate colleagues. "O, that a lady, of one man refused, should of another therefore be abused," cries Helena, rushing distraught into the shadows of the wood. It had never struck me that the tragedy lay in the fact that the misused Helena was of gentle birth. The actress brings this point out with intense force, raising her voice to a scream, and flinging her arms wildly upwards, at the word "lady". O, that a gentleman should so let himself go as to make himself a motley to the view!—this was evidently the unuttered cry of every undergraduate in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Stay, I must make an exception. One performer there was in whose enjoyment lurked no canker of misgiving. Mr. E. Hain, of New College, must either be a freshman, or a man extraordinarily impervious to "the spirit of place". He played Puck in the wildest and merriest way imaginable, and had exactly modelled his appearance and voice on those of Mr. George Robey. His physical agility was quite amazing. Every time he ran off or on, one thought he would surely break his neck. But he never did. And this series of feats was our sole consolation for the fact that he had not burdened himself with the slightest conception of the poetry of his part, and that everything

was subordinated to the imitation of Mr. George Robey. It is a pity that so beautiful a part as Puck should be thus degraded, especially as it cannot be degraded without ruining much of the poetry of the other parts. Thus, when Oberon delivered that exquisite speech whose opening words are "Thou rememberest since once I sat upon a promontory", all the enchantment vanished at Puck's interjection "I remember", which was mercilessly delivered in Mr. Robey's falsetto. Not that there was much enchantment to vanish; for Mr. G. C. Colmer, of Christ Church, who played Oberon, had not even a rudimentary sense of the music of verse. Unlike most of his colleagues, he was audible; but his sole recipe for the delivery of poetry was slowness—a limp and lugubrious slowness. Though, for the reason that I have suggested, undergraduates of Oxford can hardly be expected to act well, there is no reason why they should not learn to recite. A good all-round recitation of a Shakespearean play is delightful, and ought to be well within the scope of the O. U. D. S. After all, the poetry itself is the first and most important thing in Shakespeare. Let the O. U. D. S. try for it next year.

MAX BEERBOHM.

SOME ENGLISH PORTRAITS AND LANDSCAPES.

AMONG the pictures now at Burlington House, which in my article on the Old Masters exhibition I had not room to mention, is an interesting portrait "ascribed to Samuel Cooper". It is a portrait of Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford, a head and bust in armour, painted with a rather precise touch, though neither cold nor hard. It evidently belongs to the Restoration time, but it is not by Lely or any of his school. The name of Cooper therefore suggests itself, for though I do not think that great master of little portraits is known to have painted anything but miniatures, this picture might seem almost worthy of his brush. The name of Flatman is, possibly, a more likely alternative. At any rate, it is a picture to be made a note of by those who care for the history and achievements of our earlier artists, which deserve much completer study than they have ever received. There was sold a few days ago at Christie's, described as Dutch, a full-length male portrait, obviously English, of the Elizabethan period. In this case there could be no doubt that the painting was the work of a miniaturist, painting on an unusually large scale. I should not wonder if it proved to be the work of Nicholas Hilliard. It is a delightful picture, with its harmony of silver and red, and its contrast of living portraiture in the face with the jewelled dress and armour. Another picture at Burlington House which may escape notice among the Hogarths surrounding it is a little interior with figures, by Jonathan Richardson the elder. Richardson is usually dismissed with a word or two of contempt, but his drawings betray a sensitive hand, and this little piece, in which he has painted his wife and children, with himself coming in at the door of the room, though it is poor in quality of pigment, shows a sense for grouping and natural movement quite unexpected in the stiff-posed portraiture of that day. It might claim blood relationship with some of the interiors exhibited these last few years at the New English Art Club.

The room of Hogarths does not, it must be admitted, impress quite so much after study as on a first visit. There are too many doubtful pictures. The little oblong panels illustrating "Hudibras" I cannot believe to be the work of the young Hogarth; but in this case it is not a question of inferiority, the painting is on the contrary too clever and too good for Hogarth's youthful and inexperienced brush, while quite unlike his maturer style. I have seen another "Hudibras" set in private hands which seems to be the work of Hogarth adapting from a Dutch model. But to settle the question of these "Hudibras" paintings we require further evidence. Above these hangs the fine portrait called "Sarah Malcolm". As however that famous murderess was only twenty-three when executed, this woman of strong-featured middle age can hardly be she. The group entitled "The Pitt Family by Gainsborough" has

caused a good deal of discussion. Though signed, it is unlike that master in essential characteristics of drawing, colouring, and handling of pigment. The costume undeniably agrees with that of about 1780; and if the picture is of that date it cannot possibly be by Gainsborough. It is claimed however that it was painted about 1760; if that date could be accepted it would be easier to argue for Gainsborough's authorship. But in that case we have to presuppose an anticipation of the modes of nearly twenty years later; and though one might be able to show that details had been anticipated in the cycle of fashion, the costumes as a whole seem to me quite against the earlier date.

Among paintings of a later period it is a delight to find two pictures by Crome that are really genuine; and, what is still rarer, an authentic oil painting by Cotman. The latter is a favourite theme of that artist's, a row of draining-mills on the fens seen in perspective; he made several drawings of the subject with variations in the design. The two figures are conventional, though boldly conventional, and the contrasts are a little forced; but how felt, and how trenchantly expressed, is the scene! This is not Cotman at his finest. Crome, on the contrary, could hardly be better represented than in the "Poringland Oak" and the "View of Norwich". The "Poringland Oak" was painted in 1818. The boys bathing in the foreground were inserted by another painter, Michael Sharp. It is a regrettable addition, for the group is rather trivial, and awkwardly composed, marring to a certain extent the grandeur of the whole. Still, the picture ranks with the two or three of Crome's greatest landscapes. Some of those who have seen that other picture of "The Willow", which went to America a good many years ago, claim for it equal or even greater beauty; but in the absence of that we must account this splendid oak, with the last glow of sunset suffusing all its branches and the intricacy of its branches, as peerless in tree-painting. Those who are accustomed to the countless Norwich pictures which now falsely bear Crome's name should pay attention to the actual handling of detail in this typical genuine picture, never small, and yet how delicate, with nothing either hard or undecided. The other painting of Norwich, with Mousehold Heath behind, is tender in mood, with a sky of extraordinary beauty. After these Cromes the Hooks in the next room, for all their breezy blue, and the knowledge of ocean waves they show, seem bare of thought and feeling.

There are a few good water-colours at Burlington House, but there is more to see at Messrs. Agnew's annual exhibition, which has a remarkable series of Turners. Among these are some beautiful examples of his early time, those blue and gray drawings which always rest and charm when one is satiated with the later splendours. One of these, an Italian lake scene (No. 171), is manifestly one of those copies or adaptations after J. R. Cozens—rarely recognised as such in catalogues—of which Turner did so many in the long winter evenings at Dr. Monro's house in Adelphi Terrace. These copies form an interesting chapter in Turner's development. Trained to scrupulous and patient draughtsmanship on subjects of English topography, he found in Cozens a model, and in water-colours the only available model, for subjects of wider range and more imaginative appeal. Cozens revealed to him the Alps and Italy before he saw them with his own eyes. He must often in later years have found himself painting scenes which were already familiar to him through the earlier artist's brush. In doing these copies he was learning to compose. Whenever one can place the copy side by side with the original—quite a number of these double versions exist—Turner's mind is seen at work, making the lines run more rhythmically, heightening a form here, depressing it there, emphasising a tone, effacing a detail. The touch of the brush on the paper is more delicate and liquid, and the whole transposed into a bluer key of colour. Yet Cozens was well worthy of Turner's study. He had not, of course, the incomparable lightness and flexibility of Turner's hand, nor the astonishing thoroughness of mastery in drawing both natural and architectural forms which Turner, even as a youth, had attained; but he too was a master of the luminous

wash, and in certain instances Turner's skill and resource in improvement effect only something artificial that really loses by comparison with the integrity of the earlier artist's vision. Moreover Cozens was, I think, the first in Europe to express in landscape that new feeling for nature, that new relish for the liberating solitudes and severities of the earth, which was coming over the world and which was to tinge so much of the literature and art of the early nineteenth century. Wordsworth was still a little boy when Cozens made his first drawings in Switzerland. But while in the poet's earliest book, the "Descriptive Sketches," written among the same scenes, there is still a great deal of the eighteenth century's literary stock-in-trade, rhetorical apostrophes and allegorical figures called into being by a capital letter, in the artist's drawings all the old ornaments and supports that gave pretext to the landscape painters of Claude's or Salvator's line are quite discarded; and in place of the old sentiment of romantic horror among crags and chasms are the high snows glimmering among the clouds, and wrecking torrents, tossing the broken pines, and again vistas of great valleys with winding streams, or faint rosy tinges on bare rock that rises from cold lakes. And yet, when he has crossed the Alps, what painter of the classic temper has a deeper sense of Italy than Cozens? Turner himself has but an imperfect sense of Italy; but in Cozens' drawings the cypress seems to breathe native air, and the melancholy sweetness of the Campagna answers his own feeling. In certain of his earlier drawings he anticipates, both in lyrical pensiveness of mood and in devices of composition, landscapes by Corot. In the present exhibition he is represented by a single drawing, "Between Salerno and Paestum"; not one of his very finest, but how laboriously tired and dull it makes most of its neighbours look! What positive charm of colour he gets by limiting his range so severely! The belauded "improvements" which made the British water-colour what it was through most of the nineteenth century really seem like a childish yielding to the seductions of the colour-box, ending in utter defeat so far as the idea of colour was concerned. Plenty of depressingly accomplished drawings in this exhibition bear witness. To me at least it is an infinite refreshment to turn back to the youthful Turner, here so well represented. The later examples are not always so satisfying; they are apt to contain too much, to say too many things at once. But of the years of early maturity, what could be more beautiful than the Malham Cove (No. 5), recalling that noble oil picture "The Trout Stream", with its magical revealing of rainy light on the forms of rock and scar as the shower lifts and passes? This drawing has been most skilfully cleaned since it was last seen at auction. Another drawing of a waterfall on the same wall has lost its colour, but has so felicitously faded that one can hardly wish it otherwise. An early and unusually fine De Wint (No. 23), of a broad, spacious simplicity, is one of the most distinguished things in the gallery. On the screens is a little drawing of Beachy Head (No. 120) in which Constable for once forgets his breeze and glitter for a rare and lovely atmosphere of subaqueous tints on bay and promontory. The three Girtins on the same screen are not of the first rank, though the solemn "S. Agatha's Abbey" is fine. The "Glamis Castle" has been sometimes thought to be by Turner; and though to distinguish between the two men at a certain time of their comradeship is almost impossible, the weaker sense for architecture and the sweep of the foreground speak for Girtin.

LAURENCE BINYON.

SHIRE HORSES.

THE annual meeting of the Shire Horse Society this week, enables the public to see, the splendids specimens of a breed which is now essentially English. In this the peculiar genius of the British agriculturist in developing breeds which have been originally imported from other countries, has been shown, just as the English racehorse, descended from the Darley, Arabian, and other horses of Arab descent, is now exported to improve the breed of horses throughout the world.

This influence of a succession of careful breeders upon horses (bred originally to carry the heavy armoured knights in the early Continental wars) shows to what extent the size and weight of the ancient "destrier" has been developed for the purpose of heavy work, where the strength of one horse, sufficient to draw four or five tons weight, continues to be in demand, in all our towns; it has not even been superseded by motors, which are now available for faster traffic, for vans and omnibuses.

The existing Shire horse, which at four years old frequently exceeds a ton in weight, is a great contrast to the Shetland pony of eight and a half hands, which at our agricultural shows sometimes immediately follows after the gigantic specimens of the Shire horse breed, which are from seventeen to eighteen hands high.

The present type of horse, which is seen among the winners at our shows, has been produced by judicious breeding in the last quarter of a century, from a line of selected sires, of which William the Conqueror, Lincolnshire Lad II., Prince William, and Harold were the most impressive; to this must be added a favourable soil and good pasture, in which lime must either be present or artificially applied.

There has been a marked change, in the strain of blood, now most popular, from the old heavy and compact type, of short back and coarse neck to a greater length of body, and lighter forehead and crest; but size and weight, together with quality and action, are still demanded in the stallion, though in the mare, quality and length, rather than great size, are generally the best qualities to breed from.

The courage of the Shire horse is best seen when he is drawing a heavy log of timber off a wood on a steep brae, leaning over into the collar, till a determined and continuous strain, moves the load.

The value of a horse, for breeding purposes, is the property of transmitting his qualities to his stock, and that is possessed, by some horses, in a marked degree, so that their progeny can easily be identified from their similarity to, the shape, colour, and marking of the parent.

The Shire Horse Society, by its stringent rules of veterinary examination, has been able to weed out hereditary unsoundness and has had a most beneficial influence on the soundness of the stallions, exhibited at the present time, compared with the experience of twenty or thirty years ago.

The feet and hocks were at one time the weak points of the breed, which are now generally much improved in character. Objection has been made to the long hair below the knees, which should be of a silky character, but that is invariably found, to be associated with flat legs, and clean back sinews.

Landed proprietors have been able, by keeping a superior class of horse in their studs, to supply the want of sound sires at low fees, and to give opportunities to their tenants for breeding animals which can be sold, even at one or two years old, at remunerative prices. In fact, in some of the small farms in the grass lands of Lancashire and Derbyshire, the owner of a breeding Shire mare is enabled to pay his rent, or the greater part thereof, by the sale of her produce. If he desires to work the young colt or filly from two, till four or five years old, on his farm, he is able to sell it for town work, at a price greater than he would get for the majority of hackneys or hunters of that age. It is this that makes it more profitable for the farmer to breed Shires than either hunters or hackneys.

The Americans have hitherto preferred the Percheron, and the Clydesdale for their traffic, which requires a lighter and quick-stepping horse; but a Shire colt bred by a Cheshire tenant was sold lately at Chicago for a large sum, and the export trade in 1907 had largely increased; 390 Shires went to the States, 113 to Canada, and the Argentine took 117.

There is a steady demand for Shires at the present time, and the prices at the recent sales were satisfactory—at Lord Rothschild's sale even of a sensational character, which at least showed there is a good competition for any sound animals.

This year's Show has maintained its high standard of excellence, especially in the younger classes of stallions. Out of 652 animals very few were rejected, and the difficulty the judges had, in awarding the prizes,

shows how very evenly the good qualities of the horses were distributed. The exhibitors represented a larger area of counties than before. Lancashire and Cheshire were fortunate in securing several of the prizes (notably the Championship), a tenant farmer in Cheshire being also successful.

A good many foreigners showed their interest in the proceedings, and were expected to attend the sale which takes place during the last two days of the Show.

Arthur Young at the latter end of the eighteenth century mentioned the strain of old English Black Horses in the Fen Country and Derbyshire; it is from that prevalent colour in the breed, their frequent white stockings and the blaze on the face, that Professor Ridgway conjectured that the Shires are descended through the Gallic race, from the North African or Barbary horse, and it is from this ancestry, that in some degree, they have inherited their docility and good temper. The black horse of our regiments of heavy cavalry, the Life Guards, is derived from a cross of a thoroughbred with the old English war horse.

The Shire horse may still be found useful to fill up the want of horses for our heavy artillery, if motors are not adapted for that purpose. The mare crossed with a hunter or coach-horse sire would be the best foundation for our light horse artillery.

The Shire Horse Society has prospered largely under the patronage of the King and other leading agriculturists, without deriving any assistance from the State; but at the present time, when horses are urgently required for military purposes, especially for the mounting of artillery and transport, it is to be hoped that this and the other Horse Societies may be able to give some assistance to the Government in providing for the larger supply of horses for the Army, as soon as some definite proposals and terms are made by the Government for the encouragement of breeders; it does not seem likely that animals to supply the demand will in the present depleted state of the horse market be forthcoming, nor does the existing working of the King's premiums for stallions lead to the breeding of animals altogether suitable for cavalry purposes. If the Government can make it worth while for farmers to breed the animals they want, and pay a proper price at four years old, there will be no difficulty in getting a sufficient supply of horses for the Army.

EGERTON OF TATTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ORIGIN OF PARLIAMENTARY OBSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Baumann, tells you gravely that the late Mr. Biggar was taught obstruction by Mr. Ronayne of Cork, and that Mr. Parnell was taught by Mr. Biggar! I think I have seen something like this fairy tale in the Parnellite rhapsody called "Life of Parnell", by Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

The story is possibly due to Mr. Parnell's economy of truth when he was wooing the constituency represented by Mr. Ronayne. It is perfectly absurd, and deserves, accordingly, to be accepted by British statesmanship.

If you consult the proceedings of the Home Rule Convention, Dublin, September 1873—long before Parnell or Biggar appeared upon the scene—you will find in the speech of one who was not Mr. Ronayne the exposition of the reformed programme for Irish Parliamentary action:

"So long as England interferes in the affairs of Ireland, so long the Irish Parliamentary Representation must interfere in the affairs of England."

And the speaker was able to realise that programme on the South Africa Bill (1877), on the administration of India (1874), in the abolition of Army flogging (1879), &c.

By the way, you have not yet erected statues to the Irish Nationalists who cleaned the British Army from the loathsome disgrace of the cat-o'-nine-tails.

Mr. Baumann is acute in his observation that when Parliament suppressed the Irishmen it suppressed

itself. That is quite true. The British Parliament is become a very servile Corps Législatif, a machine for Ministerial Projets de Loi, and nothing more. A huge contagion of public demoralisation, socialism, the contempt for authority, the contempt for Parliament, are inseparably united with that. The measures which destroyed the dignity and office of the Mother of Parliaments in endeavouring to destroy the expression of Irish Nationalism, however ignorantly expressed, have worked a wider revenge than even Wolfe Tone dreamed of. Every year will add to their baleful efficacy. Et vous verrez ce que vous verrez.

But, in the first place, that end was not in the direct view of the originator of the retaliation policy at Westminster, though he was not insensible to the suggestion, "Why the devil respect the usurpation which violated the Old House in College Green?" Pitt and Castlereagh's methods of dealing with a National Parliament were not precisely conducive to respect for the rival interloper.

Secondly, the British officials, Whig and Tory, not ungladly seized the excuse for smoothing the path of Ministerial measures by suppressing freedom of debate.

Thirdly, the Land League mob which invaded the Irish Representation in 1880 certainly did not see beyond "mere obstruction", as they never saw beyond their noses in anything.

And certainly you have the present result in a disreputable "machine" which Tammany need not envy, for even the Assembly at Albany gives freer voice to public opinion than the Thing at Westminster.

Only that is no reason for attributing to "the crowd", to use the irreverent appellation of the ladies of the Ladies' Land League for *ai amphi Parnélla*, the initiation of the true retaliation policy. That was far larger, and has never ceased, though it is no longer dependent on Westminster opportunities.

However, I cannot explain this, as I have not the patience to write an encyclopædia, and nothing less could supply the lack of knowledge in the "governing race". But Mr. Baumann has some sound views.

Yours faithfully,

BASILIDES.

ALFRED STEVENS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Richmond, Surrey, 25 February, 1908.

SIR,—The hope expressed by Mr. Binyon that a volume on Alfred Stevens by Mr. MacColl might soon be forthcoming will be shared by many. I have often wondered at the ignorance of or indifference to the fame of our greatest sculptor there has been among us. It was a Frenchman (Professor Legros) who some ten or twelve years back was the means of getting a medallion of the sculptor placed in the town hall of Blandford (his native place) as well as a tablet affixed to the house wherein he was born. Shortly after this honour had been done to his memory I made a pilgrimage to Blandford. Walking the length of the main street of the old market town I asked of many passers-by and others (including the policeman) for direction as to the situation of the house, but none could assist me. So I entered the inn at the end of the street, ordered lunch, and proceeded to question the landlord as to the object of my search. "Alfred Stevens?" said he, clapping his hand to his head as if to aid thought, "Was he in business in the town, might I ask?" I explained that he was the sculptor of the Wellington monument in St. Paul's. He seemed puzzled, took his hand from his head, and then retired to put the matter before the bar customers. They had never heard of the man. As a last resource, he sought the kitchen department. There, some enlightened female bethought her of the fact that on the front of a small butcher's shop in a neighbouring street a tablet with name inscribed had been recently fixed. Sure enough, that was the house I was seeking. A year or so back, reading "Highways and Byways of Dorset", by Sir Frederick Treves, then just published, I came to the passage "Blandford can boast of many eminent men". I was eager to know what the Dorset surgeon had to say about the Dorset sculptor; but, alas! "notably bishops" next met my eye, and the names of these

I found and other information, but of Alfred Stevens not so much as his name. Sir Frederick Treves has much to say about Barnes the Dorset poet, and justly, but to Stevens I doubt not will be allotted a higher place in the Temple of Fame in years to come. But of course the omission could be but an oversight.

There used to be a little story told at the expense of the Royal Academy which you, Sir, at least I hope will not think apocryphal and may duly appreciate. There was a sculptor, a contemporary of Stevens, of the same name, only spelt Stephens, who was elected an associate. He was by no means a shining light and never succeeded to full honours. To save their faces, from one of the forty came forth the rumour that this man was elected by mistake, many of those who had voted thinking it was Alfred Stevens they were honouring. Let us hope the story is true, though why justice was not done to Alfred Stevens later on remains unexplained.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR G. ATKINSON.

OUIDA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Rome, 24 February, 1908.

SIR,—I was glad to see by Mr. Carmichael's letter that a lady has provided sufficient funds to erect a monument to Ouida at Lucca. Her servant's tribute to her memory was indeed touching and appropriate. In regard to Mr. Carmichael's suggestion as to Bury S. Edmunds, I think it is excellent. My former offer of course still stands, and I have no doubt that there is some "leading citizen" in the town who will take the matter in hand when he reads the SATURDAY REVIEW. If every woman writer who has cribbed from Ouida without acknowledgment, and then in public deplored the evident errors of taste in Ouida's works, would contribute a shilling, a sufficient (even a princely) monument might be raised.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.

THE SICILIANS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 February, 1908.

SIR,—Having read in last week's issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW Mr. Max Beerbohm's amusing article upon players and public at the Shaftesbury Theatre, I should be greatly obliged by your affording me space for a reply to portions of it, which one member of that public cannot help taking as a double challenge.

To take first the challenge to the players—or rather to the player. I do not find it in his charges of incongruity, strangeness, or of "damned difference" (sic), but in the following words: "So soon as she gets under way, which is soon, grace goes overboard." He explains that he means grace by British standards—but even here, without a sermon upon the universality of excellence, I would take up the glove.

A popular English dictionary, now in my hand, has these meanings for "grace":

1. That, in manner, deportment, or language, which renders it appropriate.
2. Natural, or acquired excellence.
3. A single beauty.
4. Beauty deified.
5. Virtue physical.

These are taken in their order, leaving out the one "elegance", over the inappropriateness of which I shake hands with the foe. In at least four of the senses given, I submit that Signora Ferrau has grace. A trapped panther, heavily lurching to and fro in its prison, yes, and baring its teeth with strange accompaniments of sound, might still be called graceful, though hardly elegant. Now for the other glove.

One who has seen the Sicilians should be, and is, deeply grateful for Mr. Beerbohm's words upon the icy tiers of fishy-eyed Laps, fur-wrapped, stolidly gazing. But "Beauty is a matter of fashion", is too flippant even for a weekly article.

Though one who saw "Malia", unconvinced of emotion, might well be likened to a cod fish or Kalmuck, and would certainly impute his passivity to

his fellow-gazers—yet this forces a protest from one of them, who found not only entertainment (Mr. Beerbohm admits the admirable quality of the entertainment) but æsthetic satisfaction, and, in the finer play of last Saturday's performance, the true tragic relief from burdensome pity and fear.

To return to "Malia", is it so incongruous for the British public to have sight of a creature "possessed", when the greater part of it is so deeply familiar with Biblical records of such strange phenomena? Mr. Beerbohm evidently heartily echoes the sentiments of a six-foot British matron, who emerged from her stall, close to the writer, saying with a sigh, "Well, I suppose it's all very wonderful, considering they are only peasants".

Yours faithfully,
M. E. P.

THE CENSORSHIP OF PLAYS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 February, 1908.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you would insert this manifesto in your Saturday's issue.

Yours faithfully,
MAGDALEN PONSONBY, Hon. Sec.,
Committee for the Abolition of the Office of
Dramatic Censor.

SIR,—We desire to express our sympathy with the Dramatic Authors in their demand for the Abolition of the present system of the Censorship of Plays. We are all anxious that the moral and educational influence of the drama shall be for good; but we agree that the present method of supervision has failed to achieve this object; and we should be glad to see the necessary public control secured by other means.

WILLIAM AGNEW	OLIVER LODGE
MAURICE BARING	LUCAS
SIDNEY BALL	EMILY LUTYENS
H. BELLOC	LYTTON
ARTHUR C. BENSON	EDITH LYTTTELTON
E. F. BENSON	H. J. MACKINDER
MAX BEERBOHM	CHARLES F. G. MASTERMAN
WILFRID SCAWEN BLUNT	P. CHALMERS MITCHELL
R. A. BRAY	A. R. ORAGE
H. E. BUTLER	WILLIAM POEL
S. H. BUTCHER	MARY E. PONSONBY
R. J. CAMPBELL	A. QUILLER COUCH
EDGAR F. CARRIT	ROBERT T. RAIT
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL	WALTER RALEIGH
B. A. CRACKANTHORPE	CHARLES RICKETTS
WALTER CRANE	G. GRANT ROBERTSON
JENNIE CORNWALLIS WEST	WILLIAM ROTHENSTEIN
G. LOWES DICKINSON	BERTRAND RUSSELL
MARIA THERESA EARLE	MARGARET OF SARAWAK
A. S. F. FARQUHARSON	ERNEST DE SÉLINCOURT
EVERARD FEILDING	CHARLES SHANNON
H. A. L. FISHER	EDITH SICHEL
J. W. FORTESCUE	ETHEL SMYTH
DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD	EDWARD F. SPENCE
ROGER FRY	HENRY SCOTT HOLLAND
FEODORA GLEICHEN	L. ALMA TADEMA
EDMUND GOSSE	R. J. E. TIDY
W. H. HADOW	T. FISHER UNWIN
H. RIDER HAGGARD	ALLAN F. WALDEN
H. L. HENDERSON	CHARLES WALDSTEIN
STEWART HEADLAM	EMERY WALKER
CLEMENCE HOUSMAN	SIDNEY WEBB
H. W. B. JOSEPH	BEATRICE WEBB
HERBERT JEYKILL	FREDERICK WHELEN
K. LEEDS	A. E. ZIMMERN
L. G. WICKHAM LEGG	F. DE ZULUIETA
BETTY LEWIS	

SWERVE IN BILLIARDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

22 February, 1908.

SIR,—I am sorry to trespass again on your space, but I am afraid I must correct a further error. In my letter of last week I stated the direction of swerve in a billiard ball incorrectly. A billiard ball with "side" on would swerve in the same direction as a curling

stone in the circumstances I mentioned, if indeed any further effect were produced than to check the spin of the ball, which is very doubtful. On mathematical grounds, this is precisely what I should expect to happen; and the cause of "swerve" is still to seek. I expect you will hear from Mr. Glenny on this matter.

The main thing to observe is that the cause of swerve is not the same as in the case of a curling stone. The question of a golf ball is different again, and depends not on friction (or rather viscous resistance) but on the production of air vortices, I think. This, however, is a question with which I am not competent to deal.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A MATHEMATICIAN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

4 Whitehall Court, S.W., 27 February, 1908.

SIR,—“Mathematician”, writing of Mr. J. Glenny’s letter, says: “Your correspondent seems to have formed an incorrect idea of the motion of a billiard ball. So far as I can gather, he pictures to himself a ball spinning about a vertical axis, or at least about an axis so nearly vertical as to pass through the area of contact with the table. But a little consideration will show that if the ball is moving forward this condition of things cannot last. The friction between the ball and the table will displace the axis of rotation and the ball begins to roll. This takes place very soon—generally in about one-twentieth of a second or so.”

Mr. Glenny’s conception of a billiard ball’s forward motion in many cases—taking “Mathematician’s” statement as accurate—is quite correct. The spin of a travelling billiard ball is very frequently about an axis that is nearly vertical. It frequently lasts almost the full length of the run of the ball. The friction of the cloth does not in these cases displace the axis of rotation, for it is not contending with the spin.

I should have to devote quite a column or two to clearly explain these matters, but it is plain to me that “Mathematician” has failed to grasp the particular action of the ball that swerves.

I have not space to go fully into the question of the influence of the nap of the cloth, but this is now beyond the region of dispute and can be easily explained.

I do not wish to prolong this discussion, although the subject seems to have caused much interest, but I shall be pleased at any time to give “Mathematician” a practical demonstration of the accuracy of my statements.

I am &c.

P. A. VAILE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Rillmount, Hawick, N.B., 25 February, 1908.

SIR,—All good billiard players and many poor ones (myself included) know from actual experience that the pile (or “lay” as your correspondent terms it) of the cloth does affect the swerve of a ball with side on, and that a ball with left side will swerve to the left when running with the pile but to the right when running against it. This is so easily demonstrated on a table with a good cloth as to be beyond question. One would have thought, as “Mathematician” apparently thinks, that the friction of the cloth would very soon appreciably change the direction of the axis of rotation of a ball, and if it started perpendicularly would soon be slanting forward on account of the retarding action of the cloth on the under side. In practice, however, this does not appear to be so, probably on account of the gyroscopic action which tends to resist any attempt to alter the line of the axis of a rotating body. A ball can be struck with side (which means rotation about a perpendicular axis) the full length of the table, and when it reaches the other end will still be rotating as far as the eye can tell around a vertical axis. If “Mathematician’s” theory held good, the friction of the cloth would cause the axis of rotation to lean forwards and would soon become parallel with the bed of the table, in which case the rotation of the ball would tend to carry it at right angles to the original path. That this is not so, however, can easily be demonstrated in practice.

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. JAS. GLENNY.

REVIEWS.

GEORGE DARLEY.

“The Complete Poetical Works of George Darley: Now First Collected.” Edited with Introduction by G. Ramsay Colles. London: Routledge. 1908. 1s. net.

IT was hard on Darley to be known only in scarce editions and in anthologies for so long; but it is harder to be put into a single volume of “The Complete Poetical Works”, over five hundred pages long, and in small type. If there had to be a complete edition, it should have been comely. If the print had to be small, it should have been used for a selection. The only advantage to Darley that can come from this form is that it will suggest a “classic”, and so glide gently into the harmless loves of many who would not venture to try a poet who was not universally acknowledged. But he is not a classic, let the unfortunate neglect of his best work stimulate our admiration through our indignation as it may.

George Darley was born in Dublin in 1795, the eldest child of an Irish gentleman “of good family and independent means”, and spent his first ten years with his grandfather in the country. After taking his Bachelor’s degree at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1820, he went to London and followed literature, as poet and magazine writer. His “Errors of Ecstacy” appeared in 1822; “Labours of Idleness”, chiefly prose, in 1826; “Sylvia” in 1827, three years before “Poems Chiefly Lyrical”; “Nepenthe”, privately, in 1835; and his plays of “Thomas à Becket” and “Ethelstan” in 1840 and 1841. After “Sylvia” he compiled popular treatises on algebra, geometry, and sundry matters. With Lamb, he wrote for “The London Magazine” and was pretty well known in literary society as a promising poet, a violent critic, a handsome man and a stammerer—“stammering”, says Beddoes, “so much so as to be almost inconvertible”. This weakness probably kept him as much from society as the love of solitude which he boasts of. “Solitude is not so much my necessity as my inclination. I have neither love for society, nor those agreeable qualities of mind, manner, and disposition which would make society love me. . . . I always found myself so embarrassed in the presence of others, and everyone so embarrassed in mine. . . . I was so perpetually infringing the rule of politeness, saying or doing awkward things, telling unpalatable truths, or giving heterodox opinions on matters long since established as proper, agreeable, becoming, and the contrary, by the common creed of the world. . . .” In other letters it is clear that the stammering afflicted his thoughts as well as his speech. Poor health, with headaches and an extreme self-consciousness, kept him more and more in solitude. He died in 1846.

Along with much pure eccentricity of mind, he had a really independent view of things; in his Italian travels of 1833 and 1834, for example, he discovered Giotto and Perugino for himself. But his gifts, whether from a natural thinness or for lack of the intercourse which his stammering denied to him, never once found supreme expression. Reading “Sylvia: or the May Queen”, a lyrical drama, it is hard for us to understand that the writer of it should never have surpassed it, good as it is. For it contains some of the best fairy scenes in English poetry. It calls up our memories of Drayton and Shakespeare and does not perish in the comparison. The opening of the fifth scene in the fourth act is perfectly appropriate in its prettiness, high spirits and delicacy. The versification, smooth, sweet and fluent, recalls, at its best, the poet of “The Faithful Shepherdess”, at its worst no one less than George Withers. Hardly any one line can stay in the memory; for it has the wasteful luxuriance of improvisation; but the whole is an exuberant, spring-like experience through which the mind passes with nothing but delight. We look upon the world for the time being with the eyes of the young lovers, Sylvia and Romanzo, round whom the fairy dances are woven:

“Seem we not

Like two young Spirits stole from Heaven to view
This green creation; who with looks of praise
Sit murmuring on the early mountain-tops
In close ambrosial converse?”

It is all lyrical, but when he pauses from his blank verse and octosyllabic couplets, he seems unequal to the need for elaboration, though even then the verbal music does not fail, as in

"The streams that wind amid the hills,
And lost in pleasure slowly roam,
While their deep joy the valley fills,—
Ev'n these will leave their mountain home. . ."

The fairy lyrics are happier, and yet it seems a waste of fancy not to have given a perfect form to lines like

"'Tis like the crystal sound of wells,
Betrampled by the sparkling rain."

They should have been turned into the beautiful thing which they only describe. The "Dirge" is sweetest of all:

"Youth's ta'en and Beauty's fled,
O then deplore her!"

Only in one other poem, the "Nepenthe" of eight years later, did he recover this joyous mood, and that poem makes a good deal of hard reading. It is pure improvisation, and the flow, sweet and fanciful enough, is practically uninterrupted in almost two thousand lines. He takes the reins and sleeps as his chariot carries him a more marvellous course than the poet's in "Alastor"—"nec currus audit habenas."

The plays are remarkable chiefly for the character of Diverga, a female dwarf, who has no fellow among the monstrosities of literature: Caliban is a lap-dog by comparison. The verse is that of a student and a poet, but it does not make the plays more than curiosities which will go on winning love here and there for some time from student and poet.

The lyrics outside the plays are very uneven. Most show the improvisatore, and of these some are indifferent, and the better are not as good as Tom Moore's. The remainder, the best, are as unlike those as possible. One or two, such as "It is not beauty I demand", are well known. That beginning

"Wherefore, unlaurelled Boy,
Whom the contemptuous Muse will not inspire,
With a sad kind of joy
Still sing'st thou to thy solitary lyre?"

deserves an equal place. These, and "Sea Ritual", "The Mermaids' Vesper Hymn", "To my Egeria", and a few more would have put him with those whose lean reluctant natures yield a few curious blooms, if "Sylvia" had not put him with those who are almost swallowed up by their own milk and honey.

UNDOCUMENTED, UNINSPIRING.

"A History of Milan under the Sforza." By Cecilia M. Ady. London: Methuen. 1907. 10s. 6d. net.

THIS is the first volume of a series on the States of Italy which Messrs. Methuen are producing under the general editorship of Mr. Edward Armstrong and Mr. Langton Douglas. Books on the States of Italy are no doubt a desideratum, though when forming part of a "series" they cannot but be received with a certain coldness and diffidence. Books in a series are called for by publisher or editor; they are deliberate and not spontaneous; and where the history of a State is practically the history of a family, spontaneous enthusiasm for the subject, the patient and dexterous handling of minutiae, a convincing sense that the author is a specialist in all details, alone can carry the reader along and arouse in him something of the ardour of the writer. This book is painstaking to a degree and full of information about the Sforza Dukes. But it does not kindle; it does not warm; it does not incite to further study. If not exactly argumentative in itself, yet the style has at times an argumentative cast which spoils its narrative quality. We wonder how many sentences in the book begin with "hence": . . . hence the fate of the Duchy . . . hence if the attitude of the Powers . . . hence the general consternation . . . hence the inhabitants of the Duchy . . . hence . . . hence . . . hence . . . It is interminable and wearies, and shows

the politico-economical argumentative sense rather than the narrative and anecdotal instinct which would do so much to brighten a book of the kind.

The series is under excellent editorship. Than Mr. Armstrong, the talented and learned author of "Lorenzo de' Medici" and "Charles V.", no Englishman could be found better qualified to edit works on Italian history. But we do hope that the editors will not fight shy of documents out of regard for the supposed "popular" cast of the series. The only way to educate and really interest the average reader in history is by the production of original documents. Let the writer have his fill of comment upon them, but let the reader be in a position to judge of the accuracy of the comment. In this book the only documents are a few not too important letters of the penultimate Duke, Massimiliano. We should have expected to find the diploma of investiture of Gian Galeazzo, first Duke of Milan, and the diploma of investiture of Lodovico il Moro, the first Sforza Duke in legitimate possession of the duchy, more especially as Miss Ady does not summarise either document. If it be objected that these documents are in Latin and that this book is for the general reader, we reply that a translation can always accompany the original, and that the general reader is only too anxious to get out of swaddling-clothes if the author will but lend him a helping hand. Another entertaining document, whether genuine or not, is the deed of gift, said by Lünig to have been made "consensu Imperiali", of the Duchy by Filippo Maria, the last of the Visconti, to Francesco, the first of the Sforza. It was quite worth while reproducing the document and showing why "its claims to authenticity are of the smallest".

With astonishment, we might say with pain, we find that nowhere in a book about an historic family are the arms of that family rightly described. True, on page 7 there is a description of the Sforza paternal coat, but it is of the highest importance, as illustrating the ground of Francesco's claim to the duchy, to show that the subsequent arms of the Sforza Dukes were simply those of their Visconti predecessors. Facing page 141 we have two photographs from the Pavia Charterhouse called indiscriminately "Sforza Arms". The first—though we are not told so—is a representation of the arms of the Counts of Pavia, title of the eldest son of the Dukes of Milan: three eagles impaled with the viper; the second is curtly described as "the brush". There is certainly a brush in the first and fourth quarters, but the second and third are barry nebuly. Why ignore these last altogether? Then neither the brush nor the waves were "arms" of the Sforza Dukes, if we may believe Beltrami, but "impresses". The Sforza delighted in impresses and played rather fast and loose with them. The Castello Sforzesco at Milan is full of impresses placed on decorative shields just as if they were heraldic charges. The impress "barry nebuly", with one exception, and that also in the Sforza family, is the only instance we can recall of a recognised heraldic field being treated as an impress. A chapter on the Sforza impresses would have been a bright spot in the book, and would have brought out a lot of history, but it was hardly to be looked for from a writer who has neither described nor reproduced the arms of the dynasty she is dealing with.

Another matter of minutiae, rather serious as it stands. The Brogi photograph of Galeazzo Maria Sforza facing page 92 is marked with the familiar letters R.I., which being interpreted mean that the reproduction of this photograph is prohibited. We do not doubt for a moment that permission to reproduce has been obtained, but this fact should have been clearly acknowledged by the author. Other points connected with "minutiae" occur to us, but we have only space left to express the hope that the editors, banishing all thoughts of what are supposed to be popular requirements, will, by a courageous adoption of scholarly methods, make this series pleasing to the erudite and a means of transforming general readers into students.

THE HEART OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

"Newfoundland and its Untrodden Ways." By J. G. Millais. London: Longmans. 1907. 21s.

THE relic stuff is always great after the writing of any good book; but we never felt a keener desire to see the pile of chips than after the "History of British Mammals" came from Mr. Millais' workshop. That remarkable book contained years of personal observation and an epitome of extant knowledge; but it was more than a record, it was also the occasion of many special expeditions in pursuit of necessary knowledge. One of these expeditions was made to Newfoundland for the tracing out of the migrations of the whale, a theme on which much new light was shed in the History.

Happily a real observer cannot specialise: the particular thing he goes to see will before he returns be all an incident in the harvest of observations. Mr. Millais saw the whales, and tells us in this book very much about them that is new; but the land of Newfoundland attracted him more than the sea. It is our oldest colony, associated with English enterprise from the days when Cabot changed its name from Wee-soc-kadao to Newfoundland. But we who call ourselves pioneers in exploration have left this beautiful island unexplored to this day. So far as the records tell, no one yet has penetrated to its inner mysteries. The want of enterprise would seem incredible if we did not know that numbers of cockneys have never seen Westminster. Newfoundland is almost the nearest point of the new world. It is small—a little larger than Ireland—marked by all the attributes that go to make a country desirable. "Thousands of lakes and pools; picturesque streams teeming with salmon, trout, and ouananiche; great open moors and marshes dotted with ever restless herds of caribou; a wild sea coast inhabited by thousands of sea birds; dense forests of varied and beautiful trees"—and this is but a trifling summary. It says nothing of the blue monkshood, the snow-white orchis, the pitcher plants; or the fritillaries and Camberwell Beauties; or the ospreys, or the lynxes and bears, or that quaint half-indigenous people the Micmac Indians. This country we and the Newfoundlanders, whose interests are all in the sea, have left undiscovered. Mr. Millais made a haul of important discoveries, not in his proper vogue as naturalist, but as explorer. He christened great lakes; he found the source of a great river; he came at the secret of a caribou migration, and made discoveries—new at least to Europe—in the anatomy of the caribou.

Records of Mr. Millais' several expeditions to Newfoundland are duly preserved in a number of trophies, the greatest a forty-nine pointer; and one of the strangest passages in the book is the account of the death "flurry" of a whale. But killing does not as a rule make good literature unless the killer runs risks. The book doubtless is a sportsman's book, and Mr. Millais, in the best spirit, has never shot a stag except for meat or an exceptional trophy. But we like the book above all else for a quality which goes very near to mysticism. Admirers of Mr. Millais' work have been astonished—sometimes shocked—through the interruptions of the sporting chronicle by strange visionary mystic pictures. "Shadows we are, and shadows we pursue" is the first considerable picture in this book, and perhaps it is not entirely successful. It has not the quality of the sketches of attitude and pose and movement of deer, in which Mr. Millais can challenge comparison with any artist in the world. But in one way or another the real virtue of these chronicles of journeys among the untrodden ways of Newfoundland belongs to a sense both of mystery and fellowship which appears by implication in the story, and explicitly in the pictures. He is often led by this quality to a sympathetic understanding of natives, of wild animals, one might say of scenery. He gives us, for example, a humane and vivid sketch of the Micmacs, that small company of keen trappers and devout Roman Catholics, who have made Newfoundland their home for the last century and a half. The wicked, if not illicit, sale of bad spirits has brought down on them a tale of diseases, and their numbers are few. But Mr. Millais seems to prove against common belief that they are not actually decreasing in number

and have stamina to resist anything but rum. Unlike many natives, they have not been tempted by the possession of modern weapons to kill beyond their needs; and everything is on their side in a comparison with many of the white hunters. Mr. Selous in Newfoundland, Herr Schelling in East Africa, have recently given some grim instances of the sporting practices of some white hunters who would be the first to urge restriction of native rights. The black bear is probably the only animal whose numbers the Micmac has much reduced.

The mystery of Newfoundland is almost at an end. Its spruce forests are falling fast to make paper for the London press. The Stock Exchange has recently heard of the investment of £800,000 in one such venture. The pillars of untrodden aisles are to be seen in sham sections of their pillared form on vans in Fleet Street—five miles of paper to a log. The fringe of whites round the coast is encroaching on the proper "pitches" of Indian hunters—and such things must be. But it is so much to the good that the latest of the discoverers is the foremost of our naturalists, endowed with the artist's hand, the observer's eye, and something of the mystic's insight.

GENIUS LOCI.

"Cities of Italy." By Arthur Symons. London: Dent. 1907. 4s. 6d. net.

TO persuade things to give up their own secrets—it is that hard achievement which, Mr. Symons tells us, has been his aim in this quiet book of the "Cities of Italy". It is a book of sensitive English prose, full of unexpected rhythms and words which rather evoke than describe the places of which they speak. How far Mr. Symons has travelled from the Realism of his earlier poetry! And yet his journey has been by no means a casual wandering to and fro in search of beauty and pleasure, but a precise and logical progression through Realism to Mysticism, a Mysticism that is as yet but half-hearted. The most valuable quality of his work, its imaginative spirituality, obvious from the first to those who had eyes to see, has here quite forsaken its earlier preoccupation with realism. For he has found that, however subtle and sought out realism may be, it cannot inevitably discover the essential, but only as it were by chance.

Dealing as he does with all the greater cities of Italy save Genoa and Milan (Milan is only touched on in regard to a Rembrandt there), while Ravenna, Pisa, Siena, Verona are among the lesser towns he speaks of, Mr. Symons has, it might seem, tried to discover rather the personal life of these places, to express their secret, than in the usual manner of the "impressionist" to speak of Rome or Florence apropos of himself. "I have put myself as little as possible into these pages," he tells us; "I have tried to draw confidences out of the stones that I have trodden but a few weeks or a few months, out of the faces that I have seen in passing, out of the days of sunshine that have after all warmed a stranger. I have respected the sight of my eyes and the judgment of my senses. . . ." He will be content with nothing less than the vraie vérité as it were, or as much of it at least as may be "on this side of ultimate attainment". The result is that the study of Rome for instance is more successful in its creation, in its evocation of the actual atmosphere, its petty tumult in the midst of the unbroken silence of the Campagna, its extraordinary sensitiveness, the sensitiveness of a sick person almost to the shadow of a passing cloud, the misery of a day of rain, than any other study of Rome we remember to have read. "The soul of Rome as one gradually realises it first I think and not least intimately from the Aurelian Wall, then from the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Forum, the Stadium, and then piece by piece from the Vatican, the Diocletian, the Capitoline galleries of sculpture, is a very positive soul, all of one piece, so to speak, in which it is useless to search for delicate shades, the mystery of suggestion, a meaning other than the meaning which in a profound enough sense is on the

surface." How well that has been divined! Is not all the art of Italy really an alien in Rome? "To see S. Peter's", says Mr. Symons, "is to realise all that is strongest, most Roman, nothing that is subtle or spiritual, in the power of the Church. This vast building, the largest church in the world, imposes itself upon you, wherever you are in Rome; you see the dome from the Alban or the Sabine Hills, from which the whole city seems dwindled to a white shadow upon a green plain." Nor is Mr. Symons less certain in his apprehension of the strange beauty of the Campagna.

"To realise the greatness of Rome, it is not enough to have seen the Colosseum, S. Peter's, the churches, palaces, ruins, squares, fountains and gardens; you may have seen all these and yet not have seen the most beautiful possession of Rome: the Campagna." It is perhaps in his expression of the lonely majesty of this desert littered with the monsters of old forgotten religions, full of the dead things of paganism and Christianity, the bones of saints, the mighty trunks of forgotten gods, that Mr. Symons is at his best; the best chapters of the book are devoted to that tragic wilderness.

Rome, however, occupies but a quarter of the book. The secret of Venice, the secret of Ravenna are not less surely discovered and expressed. Only with Naples Mr. Symons might seem for once to have failed perhaps, because hate, even when it is really passionate, is blind beside love. It was with a certain fear that he seems to have entered the noisiest city in the world, the greatest city in Italy. And with this fear in his heart he seems for a moment to have returned on his way and to have used an old formula, the formula of realism, to express really his own personal dread of a city at once so beautiful and so horrible, so living and so profoundly fictitious.

A BRIEF OF BRITISH INDUSTRIAL LAW.

"The Factory and Shop Acts of the British Dominions."

By Miss Violet Markham and Mrs. H. J. Tennant.

London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1908. 2s. 6d. net.

MISS MARKHAM and Mrs. Tennant have done good work in producing a useful synopsis of factory legislation at home and in the colonies. Both ladies are tried experts in this branch of social work, but they run some risk of confusing the minds of others less familiar with factory legislation than themselves by the somewhat bare arrangement of their material. The mother-country, they say, is by her bitter experience to show the colonies what errors to avoid, while the original treatment of industrial questions by the colonies is to be of practical value to us at home. It is useless to make comparisons of industrial legislation unless at the same time the conditions of life in the communities concerned are carefully examined. From a mere tabulation of unexplained facts it is impossible to deduce any results capable of useful application. Mrs. Tennant mentions that sweating was checked in its beginnings with promptness and determination in Australia and New Zealand, leaving us to imagine therefore that all we need in England to grapple with the question is similar vigour and determination. We recollect the question being discussed with some vigour at the meetings of the Home Work Committee of last session, and although every effort was made to keep out tariff questions, it was patent to all that a minimum wage would be a doubtful experiment in a market such as is ours, open to the world. Mrs. Tennant does not mention the important fact that protective tariffs in Australasia make possible a high minimum wage because the cheaply-made goods of other countries are prevented from effectively competing with home-made goods. Surely it is clear that we cannot fix a minimum price for goods in England—for that is what the minimum wage means—and still allow the products of sweated or cheap labour a free entrance into our ports.

With respect to English law the authors have omitted to mention the important advance made by the Act of 1907 in securing greater control over charitable and reformatory institutions making or adapting goods for sale. This may be due to the very loose way in which the Act is drafted. The question is too technical for

discussion in detail, but we hold the view that these institutions are brought much more within the general law. Readers will observe that neither the Cape Colony nor British Columbia has any factory laws; the Cape is only just beginning to need this kind of legislation, while Columbian factories are as yet hardly more than domestic. We note these two countries in order to point the suggestion that some general information about industrial conditions would make comparisons more effective. The tables of statistics given at the end of the book, if read—again we must say it—with some knowledge of local industrial conditions, should prove of value to social workers.

NOVELS.

"Come and Find Me." By Elizabeth Robins. London: Heinemann. 1908. 6s.

Miss Robins is one of the few women who do not betray their femininity in writing of the sexes. Though common opinion is to the contrary, it is in writing of women that the woman is most often revealed. It is not that her knowledge is more comprehensive or even more intricate than that of a man, but her ineradicable fondness for her own sex fatally obscures her sense of proportion, and though she often sees a man, when she sees him at all, in good solid masses of light and shadow, she sees a woman as a confused complexity in which almost all details have an equal value. Miss Robins never irritates us by an absorbed insistence on that complexity. She knows women so well that she can draw them with the same breadth of manner that she uses for her men. It is the women, quite rightly, that interest her most: there would be a waste of her if it were not. Admirable as are her portraits of Louis Cheviot and Nathaniel Mar, it is on Bella Wayne, on Hildegard Mar and her mother, that she is best worth hearing. Mrs. Mar is drawn with delightfully humorous appreciation, and the love affairs of the two girls is one of those fancies which would probably have never occurred to a man, and could not certainly have been treated by him with that airy yet exact discrimination which makes so light of its unlikelihood. That we may describe ourselves as proud of being taken in by it, is a real tribute to the author, since it credits gratefully to her imagination an enlargement of our own. The story draws Miss Robins to that North which has for her so evident a fascination. She imbues with it more than one of her characters, and she regrettably accepts its leading towards the end of the book into melodrama. Indeed, when she turns her back on California, and heads northward toward Nome, the fine air of comedy in which her earlier scenes are conceived becomes gradually obscured. The ice-pack fog which settles down upon her adventurers seems to take hold upon her art. In describing the blind rush for gold into the Arctic wastes, doing for the less arduous sea-borne Odyssey what she had done before with such power for the land journey, she does not cease to be interesting—her humour and her observation would always save her from that—but she descends from art into animated journalism. It is true that this journalism is penetrated by the figures of her story, but it would lose very little from their absence, while they are overpowered by its vivacity. It is one of those occasions when a little knowledge is a much less dangerous thing than a lot. If Miss Robins had not had so much to tell us, had not been so pictorially dominated by her scene, she would probably not have set out upon that northern adventure with so exhausted a store of her romantic material, and so perhaps been saved from the melodrama of that last scene upon the tundra. But it would be ungrateful to obliterate with its recollection all our obligations which have preceded it, especially since it is the worse half of the book which is likely to be the more appreciated. There is much in the earlier part which could scarcely be better done. The opening scene, for example, between Nathaniel Mar and the little boy who is to become an explorer, a perfect example of the contributory value of childhood to such a theme; the delicate discrimination between English and American womanhood; the entire evolution of Bella Wayne, particularly where she breaks.

in on Mrs. Mar's sturdy determination not to give in to classic descriptions of sentiment and passion, "to make them at all events sound like sanity by sheer force of her own impregnable common sense", which "made even Victor Hugo sound as reasonable as the washing list"; and the scenes between the two girls, when Hildegard exultingly avows her passion for a man she has never seen, who had been and might still be considered as betrothed to her friend. These things remain and will remain in one's gratitude long after one's regrets have vanished for the completer work they seemed to foretell.

"Captain Spink' and Other Sea Comedies." By Morley Roberts. London: Nash. 1908. 6s.

These comedies are seven in number, and the listening landsman will wish they had been more; so captivating is Mr. Roberts in his merry mood, so clever at infecting his reader with his mirth. Six of them centre round a sea-captain, and six more diverting "old men" it has seldom been our lot to meet. Perhaps Captain Spink bears the palm, "an Englishman from Glo'ster, and, 'cept the county you come from, Glo'ster's the finest county in England". It would be unfair to Mr. Roberts to explain here how Captain Spink quarrelled with Spain, and how he invoked the help of the Foreign Office; how Captain Wigges was cured by his first mate of an unheard-of complaint; or how Captain Brodie, aged eighty, maintained his boasted reputation of being "a very remarkable man and thoroughly up-to-date". Equally must we refrain from particularising the difficulties which beset a serene highness blown from his yacht in a squall, picked up by a tramp steamer whose crew were sceptical of his claims to exalted birth, and carried all the way to Baltimore. It is not hard to imagine how much comedy Mr. Roberts derives from these and similar situations.

SHORTER NOTICES.

"Papers of the British School at Rome." Vol. IV. London: Macmillan. 1907. 31s. 6d. net.

The British School at Rome has now been in existence for seven years, and it may fairly claim to have passed beyond the experimental stage. The fourth volume of its papers reaches the same high level as its predecessors. The Director of the school, Dr. Ashby, continues his studies on the Roman Campagna in classical times with the thoroughness and care that we expect from him. But the school desires to help students of very various subjects and of all periods of history: it is fitting therefore that many subjects and periods should be discussed in the volume. Prehistoric times are represented by Mr. Peet's criticism, illustrated by a useful map, of Professor Pigorini's views on the origin and affinities of the terramara at Tarentum. The later Middle Ages are represented by Mr. Sidney Churchill's paper on the Goldsmiths of Rome under the Papal Authority; the history of Roman art in the later classical days by an interesting little study of Mr. Yeames, Assistant Director of the school, based on an ivory statuette of a hunchback in the British Museum. But the general reader (if he can be induced to consult the book at all) will probably gain most from Mr. Wace's Studies in Roman Historical Reliefs, which are admirably supported by plates. It is always a relief to turn from the uncertainties and the bare conjectures which surround earlier classical portraiture, and to come to groups which, when explained by an expert, can make us feel reasonably sure that we know what the persons whom they represent were really like. Mr. Wace has done good work in this field before, and even those who are unable to follow him in every detail will look forward with interest to the further studies which he promises. The British School is only a part of the great debt which English historical students owe to Professor Pelham: but the scientific character of its work and the catholicity of its interest are a lasting tribute to his influence. It is much to be hoped that the promoters of the memorial to Professor Pelham, which is to take the form of an Oxford studentship at the school, may succeed in effecting their useful and appropriate object.

"Farm Animals." By E. V. Wilcox, United States Department of Agriculture. London: Constable. 1907. 8s. 6d. net.

It is often well to tell an old story in a new way, and in agriculture at the present day it may at times be advisable to present new theories, but in an old-fashioned manner; nevertheless we cannot imagine any reason, and we have sought hard for one, why it is proposed to introduce this book to English readers. It is pleasantly written and full of wise sayings, if at times a little inaccurate and misleading, but though it deals with all "Farm Animals", from the thoroughbred to the goose, we can find nothing that has not been set out many times before. As to things that are purely American

and therefore, perhaps, of interest to the teacher, it would be better to consult the many valuable bulletins on such topics issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 15 Février.

The most "topical" article in the present number is M. René Pirron's on Bulgaria of to-day. It is well worth study, for the quarrel over the proposal of Austria regarding Balkan railways may at any moment bring Bulgaria on the scene. The writer emphasises the undoubted progress made by Bulgaria in thirty years. To cross the border from Macedonia is to step at once from barbarism to civilisation. The Bulgarians are spoken of usually as Slavs, but they are really more Tartar than Slav, they are more practical and less dreamy, hence their remarkable progress when compared with the Servians. There are few industries and large proprietors are very few. In the whole country there are but 6,000 operatives, practically all the rest are small holders. Therefore the soldiers are excellent, an army not to be despised. The principal dangers before the country are undue conceit, though it has good ground for being self-satisfied, and the growth of professional politicians and "intellectuals". The Universities are producing a body of unemployed superficially educated young men. What Bulgaria wants is a middle class. M. Bremond's paper on Maurice Barrès deserves more than a passing notice had we space for it.

REPRINTS.

The third volume of the Annotated Edition of Tennyson's Poems contains "Enoch Arden" and "In Memoriam". The notes given by the editor relate almost entirely to "In Memoriam". With some of them or their substance most readers of Tennyson are already familiar through the "Memoir" or various editions and books of interpretation and comment published within the last twenty or thirty years. There is one feature absent which we wish had been given—the index of "In Memoriam" which was brought out many years ago by, if we recollect rightly, Messrs. Longman. It is a really useful feature, and unfortunately very scarce. It has been out of print for many years, and copies are seldom seen in the second-hand book shops. The editor gives some amusing specimens of the criticisms of "In Memoriam" when it first appeared. The treatment of Keats and Coleridge by the quarterly reviewers of the day was wise and illuminating compared with some of the stuff written on "In Memoriam" and "Maud". Yet long after these egregious critics were done with, Tennyson's work was a favourite theme with a very silly and half-educated public which imagined him too "middle-class" and "Victorian" for its highly "cultivated" intellect and taste. Who has not heard some goose or other gabble about the middle-class of Tennyson, his want of poetic preciosity and all the rest of it? We would advise anybody who wishes to make a real study of "In Memoriam" to go to Mr. Bradley's Commentary. It fails in some ways, as we have pointed out, but it really is indispensable to a study of Tennyson. As to "Enoch Arden", a note by the editor points out that the poem has been translated into almost every European language. "Enoch Arden" contains some of the noblest passages in Tennyson. The death of Enoch is a wonderful thing, with an elemental force about it which is not surpassed, if indeed it is equalled, by anything of the kind in the poetry of, certainly, two centuries. The voice of the sea is in it far more truly than in "Childe Harold". "There came so loud a calling of the sea"—one can imagine the triumph of the poet as those words came to him. "Murmurs and scents of the infinite sea" are in much of Tennyson's work, but here the grand personality of it comes home to one.

Messrs. Dent send a further batch of their remarkable "Everyman's Library" series (1s. net each), including "Peg Woffington", Lewes' "Life of Goethe", Emerson's "Representative Men", Defoe's "Memoirs of a Cavalier", Seeley's "Ecce Homo", Thackeray's "Vanity Fair", Creasy's "Decisive Battles", "The Conspiracy of Pontiac" (2 vols.), by Francis Parkman.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus are publishing a number of admirable reprints of English classics. Their new "Shakespeare Library" (2s. 6d. net a volume) is done in good taste, and is edited well by Mr. Gollancz. We find the print, however, somewhat small. We have received four volumes—Brooke's "Romans and Juliet" and Greene's "Pandosto", Robert Laneham's Letter, "The Rogues and Vagabonds of Shakespeare's Youth", by Edward Viles and E. J. Furnivall. The same firm of publishers has taken up another capital series, "The King's Classics", and has just issued four new volumes—Temple's "Essay on Gardens", Chaucer's "Parliament of Birds", Walpole's "Castle of Otranto", and "Royal Poets", edited by W. B. Kemping.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus are bringing out an edition of Shakespeare in the original spelling. The volumes are plainly and neatly produced, and capably edited by Mr. Furnivall and the late W. G. Boswell-Stone. So far six volumes in this series have been published.

THEOLOGY.

"Concepts of Monism." By A. Worsley. London: Fisher Unwin. 1907. 21s. net.

"Religions", says the author, "are for the many, philosophies for the few." Possibly some of the latter for the very few. The following oracular utterances seem to illustrate the maxim: "We say that the reason why some conceive the Registrable as distinct from the Unregistrable is through Pluralism springing from Nescience, which gives us multifarious perceptions of Unity, without helping us to perceive the whole synchronously with the perception of the part". This is called the doctrine of Primæval Nescience. But there is better to come. We are introduced to "the world of Samsara, the world of misperception and limitation of vision". We are informed that "The Sāmkhya admitted the Developed and the Undeveloped, the Eternal Spirit (Purusha), Eternal Matter (Prakriti) and the Perpetuators of Unevenness (Gunas)". More still. "We also have what we may term Totalistic and Nontotalistic conceptions. Totalism gives us God as the Cause and World as the Effect, from which we deduce (by the identity of Cause and Effect) the doctrine of Nebeneinander, upon which all Monistic concepts are based". We are afterwards introduced to a discussion on Theism and Apotheism. But finding the remark that a certain theory "logically amounts to the synchronous expression of two radical incompatibilities", which we presume to be the author's equivalent for a contradiction in terms, we begin to suspect that this philosophy, if translated into the ordinary speech of Englishmen, might sound other than it does as here presented. Mercifully the author has provided us with a glossary whereby to understand him. We hasten to consult it, only however to be cruelly discomfited and disappointed. "Registrable", for instance, is "Whatever is reflectable by the senses. 'Nature'." "Nebeneinander" is defined to be "that which has grown up together, as it were shoulder to shoulder. A unit as conceived." "Apotheism" is "any system centred in an arbitrarily made god, in a something specially 'set aside' to serve the purpose of a god". Still more impressive is the explanation of Ārāda. Ārāda is "a Guru, perhaps of the Sāmkhya (?)". Was not the author

(Continued on page 276.)

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justified when he warned us that philosophies are for the few? Whether indeed the loss to the many is great is a question which the author himself holds to be debatable. "Indeed we are fain to admit that the total results flowing from a study of philosophies and religions, when exposed to the full light of modern criticism, have left humanity in a position more or less Agnostic". This depressing estimate grows darker yet in the author's view of Christianity—which seems to him quite obsolete—"left in the undignified position of defending exploded dogmas", while the only hopeful exceptions are apparently a Japanese ideal of duty or an Indian conception of Nirvana. Among the few writers selected for commendation is Renan, who "had a great lesson to teach the Religious world—that it should detach itself from facts and allegations". And here the author is visited by a rare gleam of hopefulness. "We need not despair of seeing even in the cathedral of Tréguier some memento to the greatest of Bretons". Whether this memento will be erected by the religious world in general, or the Roman Catholic Church in particular, as the expression of its gratitude to Renan, we are not informed. But it is curious to reflect what faith in the future is possible, and what prospects will, in certain directions, kindle hope.

"The Empire of Christ; being a Study of the Missionary Enterprise in the Light of Modern Religious Thought." By B. Lucas. London: Macmillan. 1907. 2s. 6d. net.

The author of "The Faith of a Christian" has at length let us know who he is; he is the Rev. Bernard Lucas, and he has been for many years in India on the staff of the London Missionary Society. His treatment of the missionary problem is therefore conditioned by his own experience, and by his observation of the successes and failures of Christian missions in the country where he himself has laboured; his conclusions and recommendations may not be of the same value for other lands and simpler peoples. Yet all to whom missionary work is dear will find his book intensely interesting and really instructive. As a rule we gain our knowledge of Christian missions from two sources: from missionaries, who are tempted to lay most stress on their successes, or from Civil Servants, who are not always religious men or believers in Christianity, and who discourse loftily in monthly magazines on the beliefs of the tribes among whom they live, and on the impossibility of the Christian missionary ever understanding or influencing them. Mr. Lucas' book shows that he understands the mind of the Hindoo as well as the most enlightened student of Comparative Religion; yet his faith in Christianity and his hope of a Christian India has not died out; it has become stronger and more triumphant. Only he recognises that there is a new theology, or rather a new way of looking at the truths of religion, which all of us have adopted in the last thirty years; and in the light of this, missionary effort must use new methods and have a somewhat different aim. The most conservative of us no longer believes that every heathen who dies without hearing of Christ is doomed to an eternity of torture, and we all believe that Christianity has a message of good news and happiness for the life that now is as well as for the life to come. The nation that is most truly Christian will be strongest and happiest; and missions in India must set themselves not only to convert individuals here and there, but still more to influence whole communities; the salvation of the race must be their aim even more than the salvation of the individual. How this greater task differs from the smaller, how it can best be taken in hand, are points which are considered in the latter part of Mr. Lucas' book. We can only commend it to the earnest attention of all missionaries, and thank the author for giving us not only a searching criticism of Christian missions but also an able piece of Christian apologetics.

For this Week's Books see page 278.

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Mine	4,612 12 2	0 0 11'434
Head Office	1,649 1 8	0 0 4'087
Working Profit	£103,736 14 9	£1 1 5'150
	40,547 4 5	0 9 7'384
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By Gold Account	£150,283 19 2	£1 11 0'535
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Reduction Expenses	14,158 13 5	0 4 5'593
General Expenses—		
Mine	3,453 4 1	0 1 1'071
Head Office	1,869 14 5	0 0 7'077
Working Profit	£65,498 13 1	£1 0 7'924
	29,859 15 10	0 9 5'024
	£95,358 8 11	£1 10 0'949
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By Gold Account	£95,358 8 11	£1 10 0'949

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The Actuary and Secretary (Mr. L. F. Hovil) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman expressed the hope that they would share the opinion of the Directors in thinking that the report not only showed "the continued prosperity of the Institution," to use a phrase which used to regularly appear on the first page, but which they had now discarded from a sense of modesty, but was perhaps the most satisfactory statement the Board had ever submitted to the members. The end of their last financial year also concluded their quinquennium, and he proposed to deal on this occasion mainly with the results of the five years' working. The figures for the last year of the five were quite favourable, although the severe stringency in the Money Market last November put a decided check on the inflow of new business which might always be anticipated towards the end of a quinquennium. The five years' figures showed substantial progress throughout. The premium income had increased by £34,000, the interest income by £35,000, and the assurance fund by £640,000. As regarded new business, they had put on the books policies for £200,000 more than they did in the previous quinquennium, the total amount written—£3,008,000—easily constituting itself the largest for any quinquennium period in the history of the institution, and this had been accomplished without any increase in the rate of expenses; on the contrary, the percentage of all expenses, including commission payments, attaching to the premium income, was 10.1 last year, as compared with 10.7 five years ago. The average rate of interest yielded by their funds had increased from £4 to £4 2s. 6d., and although money was temporarily somewhat cheaper, the Board looked forward to some further increase under this head. Last year the Board decided to discard the all-round rate of interest of 5 per cent. for the loans on policies, and to adopt a sliding scale, enabling members to borrow any amount of £1,000 and over at 4 per cent., smaller sums at 4½ per cent., and to retain the 5 per cent. rate only for small loans of under £200. They were pleased to say that the course taken by the Board had met with the general approbation of members. This sum invested in this way had increased by £43,000. They wound up the quinquennium with a very favourable mortality return, the claims last year being only 65 per cent. of the expected. Proceeding to deal with the quinquennial valuations, he said that this was divided into two parts—the valuation of liabilities and the valuation of assets. The former had been conducted on the same stringent basis as five years ago. The valuation of assets was a matter that came under the close personal attention of the directors themselves. They commenced this task soon after the last annual meeting and had given nearly as much attention to the position of the mortgage and other investments as if they had been under consideration as new securities. They had in a few cases called for fresh valuation, and in a few others for part repayment of the amount lent. As regarded Stock Exchange securities, November 20 was nearly, if not quite, the worst day of the year, or indeed for twenty-five years, on which they could have been called to value the high class stocks in which their money was invested. But though the amount written off for depreciation was substantial, it was only five per cent. of their total holding in these marketable securities, and they must remember that it was not a year's depreciation but the net depreciation for five years. Since the date of the valuation securities had materially appreciated, and if valued to-day the depreciation would be less by the substantial sum of about £40,000. The surplus they were dividing amounted to the large sum of £806,976, and it enabled them fully to maintain the average rate of bonus declared in the last three quinquennial divisions. They introduced the word "average" because they had taken another step in the modification of the scale of apportionment among the whole life policy-holders that they began five years ago under the advice of their former actuary, Mr. Smither, by allotting a rather larger, and they considered a fairer, proportion of profit to policies on younger lives, and they had done this without doing any injustice to the old policy-holders, whose interests had been carefully watched by them. The result, he was sure, would be satisfactory to all holders of the whole life policies, for they would all have a larger allotment of cash profit than they did five years ago. As regarded Endowment Assurance policy-holders, they had declared exactly the same bonus as before, with this slight improvement in the method of distribution of the Assurance instead of varying, as it did before, by a few shillings, one way or the other from five years to five years. He wished to say a word as to what the division of this large sum meant. The whole life and Endowment assurance policy holders alike it provided for an average reversionary bonus or addition of £2 per cent. per annum on the sum assured; or, putting it in another way, they were returning to members over 35 per cent. of the premiums paid up during the five years under policies entitled to participate in profits; that was, taking the whole life and Endowment assurance policies together. Taking them separately, it was over 40 per cent. of the whole life working-profit premiums paid during the five years, and 30 per cent. of the Endowment Assurance premiums. But they must remember that these were average percentages, and that of course the young policy holder got less than the old member, whose policy had been on the books many years very much more. In conclusion he would ask them all to give the institution their assistance—and in these days of keen competition it must be active and not passive assistance—in making the five years they had just entered on more prosperous even than the last five years they had just ended. Never in the history of the institution had its future prospects been brighter, and there never was a time when they could more confidently recommend it to their friends. He moved the adoption of the report.

Sir Peter Spokes seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously. The retiring directors, Mr. A. Smither and Mr. H. E. Hoare, were re-elected and the auditors having been re-appointed the meeting terminated.

READY ON MONDAY.

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MARCH. No. 29.

OUR UNJUST TAXATION AND ITS REMEDY,

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BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

Notice to Shareholders.

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held in the Board Room, THE CORNER HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG, on FRIDAY, the 24th day of APRIL, 1908, at 11 A.M., for the following business:—

1. To receive the Reports of the Directors and Auditors, and to consider the Balance-Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1907.
2. To elect two Directors in the place of Messrs. M. Francke and C. Marx, who retire in terms of the Articles of Association, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.
3. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year and to fix the remuneration for the past audit.
4. To transact general business.

The SHARE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 16th to the 24th APRIL, 1908, both days inclusive.

HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS to BEARER wishing to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their Share Warrants, or may at their option produce same, at the places and within the times following:—

- (a) At the Head Office of the Company in Johannesburg at least twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the holding of the Meeting.
- (b) At the London Office of the Company, 5 London Wall Buildings, E.C., at least thirty days before the date appointed for the holding of the Meeting.

Upon such production or deposit Certificates with Proxy Forms will be issued, under which such Bearer Warrant Holders may attend the Meeting either in person or by proxy.

By Order, J. H. JEFFERYS,
Secretary to the London Committee.

London Transfer Office,
5 London Wall Buildings, Finsbury Circus, E.C.
26th February, 1908.

THE PEKIN SYNDICATE.

Hopeful Coal Prospects and the Shansi Concession Agreement.

THE ordinary general meeting of the members of the Pekin Syndicate, Limited, was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Carl Meyer (the Chairman of the Company).

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Gilbert) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said the remarks which he had to make fell, as they did last year, principally under two heads. "The first of the two is the actual work we have been doing during the twelve months at the colliery in the Province of Honan, and that work, as you will have learnt from the report, has been chiefly of an exploratory character, as you were led to believe from the statements made to you at the last meeting. I said then that we had had a year of considerable anxiety and a good deal of trouble. I regret to say that I have to repeat the same statement to-day, but our trouble during the last twelve months has been to a great extent different from the trouble we experienced during the year 1906. Our trouble during the last twelve months has been principally a constant fight with the elements—I mean with the element water, which, during the whole of the time, took up a most menacing attitude, and which finally at the end of last year, or, to be more precise, at the beginning of the present year, entirely overpowered all our efforts for the time being. That, no doubt, has been the unfavourable side of the work we have been engaged on; but I am glad to say that there are also favourable features, and these favourable features, alluded to as they are in the report, consist in the fact that in two of the numerous boreholes which we commenced about twelve months ago, and on which we have been engaged during the whole of last year—in two of those boreholes, Nos. 5 and No. 12, we have been fortunate enough to strike, what appear to our engineers very good, very hopeful seams of coal. The second subject on which it is my duty to speak to you to-day is the subject of the retrocession of the Shansi Concession. You will remember that last year, at the meeting, my colleague, Mr. Jamieson, who had then not long returned from China, gave you

a very clear and detailed account of the steps that we had been taking in order to assert our rights in the Province of Shansi. You have been told in the report and by circulars that all our efforts to induce the provincial authorities to allow us to commence work have not been availing, owing to the very strong opposition which the local gentry and the population generally in the Province of Shansi entertained, not to the Pekin Syndicate alone, but to allow any foreign working within their province. We tried our best through the British Government, and they in their turn tried their best with the Chinese Central authorities to overcome this rooted objection; but their efforts were no more successful than ours had been, and finally, acting all the time on the advice and with the full concurrence of His Majesty's Government and His Majesty's Minister at Peking, we were reluctantly compelled to come to terms with the Shansi delegates, with whom our representative in Peking (Mr. Brown) had been negotiating ever since the beginning of October. The sum of 2,750,000 taels, at which the retrocession of the Shansi Concession has been agreed upon, is undoubtedly much smaller than what we had at one time hoped to obtain; but, at the same time, we feel confident that it is the largest, under all the circumstances, that we were able to obtain, and that if we had stuck out, and continued to haggle or to bargain for a few hundred thousand more taels, we should have run very considerable risk of losing the concession altogether, because towards the end of these negotiations the Shansi delegates became very obstreperous, very difficult to deal with, and threatened once or twice to break off negotiations altogether, and it was on the strong advice of the British authorities in China that we finally decided not to let the opportunity slip for, possibly, a good many years—possibly for ever. The agreement with the Shansi delegates, which has received the official sanction of the Chinese Government and of the British Minister, has since been executed, in so far that the first half of the indemnity—that is, 1,375,000 taels—was paid on Saturday last to our agent in China. I would like to say that although we have accepted compensation for our Shansi Concession, we have not by any means abandoned all hope of doing work in the Province of Shansi hereafter. We are of opinion—and that opinion is confirmed by the reports we receive from our representatives in China—that the fairness we have shown, the indulgence which we have exhibited, during these negotiations has made a favourable impression on the Chinese mind, and that if hereafter, as is quite possible, a different current should obtain in the provincial mind, and if they should see that, after all, it is to foreign capital that they must turn if they want the immense resources of their province properly developed, the Pekin Syndicate, without doubt, will then have the first, if not the only, claim to furnish that capital and that scientific co-operation which are necessary in order to develop those resources. I therefore say with the greatest confidence that, although we have accepted money, we do not acknowledge that there is any reason to give up all hope of ever doing work in the Province of Shansi. If I thought so, I should indeed be very sorry, because I have no hesitation in saying that at one time we looked upon our Shansi Concession as the most valuable of our various assets. Perhaps I might be allowed to say, in parentheses, that there is one satisfactory feature in connection with our sale of our rights in Shansi, and it is this: We have been told over and over again by some of our more severe critics during recent years—and the opinion has also been freely expressed in the Press—that our Shansi Concession was worth nothing at all—that it was a sham and a delusion. All I can say is that if it was worth nothing at all, and if it was a sham and delusion and had no real value, then the amount of money which the Chinese have paid us is pretty good for what was considered to be worthless. Now, you will probably want to know from me what is likely to be done with this money, and I entirely appreciate your curiosity in that respect. For the present, at all events, we have found a good employment for the money in China itself—that is to say, we have lent the greater part of the payment that was made to us a few days ago to a Department of the Chinese Government at 6 per cent. interest for one year. We hope and trust eventually that we shall find permanent employment for these funds, as, indeed, for all our funds in China; but until the question is in a more advanced stage I think it will be better if we keep this money quite separate, and with that object in view, we have, as I said just now, invested it to the best advantage temporarily in China. It would be much easier to come to a final decision on this point, as on several other points connected with the division of future profits, if we had been able to arrive at an understanding between the various classes of shareholders with respect to the unification of the different classes of shares in this syndicate. The accounts, as you know, are again somewhat behind, but I will not apologise for that as I have done on previous occasions, because you know the reason why we are obliged to be a little behind in our accounts. At the same time the report is brought up to date, and that is the principal thing, and, so far as the financial position is concerned, I can add but very few words to what is said in the report when I tell you that during last year (1907) our revenue was, roughly speaking, £45,000; that our expenditure in London and China, also roughly speaking, was about £13,000; and that we spent about £60,000 on capital account in connection with the development of our Honan Concession, including property. That, I think, gives you, in a very few figures, the actual state of things, and if you will allow me to say so, I cannot help feeling, considering the prospects that we have, considering the ample cash resources of which we dispose, that our shares are unduly—I may say very unduly—depreciated on the market. Not that it is the business of directors to look after the quotations of their shares; but still it is not very pleasant when one sees that the shares of a concern which one is called upon to administer are depreciated far below what I may call their breaking-up value. At the present moment, if I reckon that the whole of the indemnity has been or will be paid—of which there can be no doubt—the cash assets of the syndicate amount to at least £1,250,000 sterling, and I think I am right in saying that the market value of the various classes of our shares is less by several hundred thousand pounds than this break-up cash value of the company's assets. That, I think, is an unnatural position. I do not mean to give this as a 'tip,' but I have not the least doubt in my mind that, with renewed and restored confidence and more normal times generally on the Stock Exchange, it is an anomaly which is sure to disappear." Having referred to the syndicate's interests in the Chinese Central Railways, and thanked their agent in China, Mr. George Brown, the general manager at the mine, and the whole of the staff for the excellent work which they have done during the last twelve months in the interests of the syndicate, the Chairman read a telegram from Mr. Kenrick: "In reply to your cable dated the 22nd, good progress is being made in all departments. Yes; decidedly I expect to be in coal about next June." He concluded by moving "That the report and accounts for the year 1906, submitted to you, be adopted."

Mr. George Jamieson, C.M.G., seconded the motion. Mr. Torr then drew attention to the new unification scheme, and, as the outcome of the discussion, the following resolution was moved: "That unification of the different classes of shares is desirable. That a committee consisting of two representatives of each class of shareholder be appointed to consider with the directors the scheme proposed by Mr. Torr and any other suggestion that may be made, and that the board of directors shall have power to add to the number of the committee."

The resolution was carried unanimously. The Chairman: The board will be very glad to confer with Mr. Torr as to the representation of the different classes on the committee.

Mr. Rathbone moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Carl Meyer for his able conduct in the chair. This was unanimously passed and the proceedings terminated.

NOTICE.

The Terms of Subscription to the SATURDAY REVIEW are:—

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Half Year ...	0	14	1	0	15	2
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In the event of any difficulty being experienced in obtaining the SATURDAY REVIEW, the Publisher would be glad to be informed immediately.

This Notice is not issued for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, but by way of information only. No application will be entertained unless the same is made on the basis of and with reference to the full Prospectus.

The LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS will OPEN on MONDAY, the 2nd day of March, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 5th day of March, 1908, at 4 p.m., for both Town and Country.

The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

THE METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893).

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £1,500,000.

Divided into 500,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares, 500,000 Ordinary Shares, and 500,000 Deferred Shares, all of £1 each.

Share Capital issued and fully paid:
Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares ... £500,000
Ordinary Shares ... 391,337
Deferred Shares ... 314,016

£1,205,353

£426,300 Debenture Stock has been issued.
Further Issue of £173,800 Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture Stock at the price of £96 per cent.

Being part of the balance of a total authorised amount ranking *pari passu*, equal to one-half of the paid-up Capital of the Company,

Payable as follows:-

£5 per cent. on Application,
£30 " " Allotment,
£30 " " 15th April, 1908,
£31 " " 31st June, 1908.
£96

Under the Trust Deed of 28th April, 1904, the Company have covenanted to provide in January, 1908, and thereafter annually (1) a sum equal to one per cent. of the issued Stock, and (2) a sum equal to the interest on the Stock already redeemed, with power to apply the same in the purchase of Debenture Stock on the market.

£4,000 Stock has already been purchased and cancelled.

The Stock is redeemable at £105 per cent. in either of the following events:-

(a) The voluntary liquidation of the Company; or
(b) At the option of the Company at any time after the 31st December, 1930, the Company giving six months' notice in writing.

Interest upon the present issue of Stock will be paid half-yearly, on the 1st January and the 1st July in each year. The first payment will be made on 1st July next.

The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £1.

Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders.

THE ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED,
1 and 2 Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Directors.

EMILE GARCKE, Chairman.
SIR ERNEST SPENCER, Deputy Chairman.
GEORGE RICHARDSON.
C. TEGETMEIER.
JAMES DEVONSHIRE, Managing Director.

Bankers.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, 52 Threadneedle Street, E.C.
BARCLAY & COMPANY, LIMITED, 54 Lombard Street, E.C.

Brokers.

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE, 27 Austin Friars, E.C.
J. H. RONALD, 5 Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

Solicitor.

HUGH C. GODFRAY, 42 Finsbury Square, E.C.

Auditors.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., 3 Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, E.C.

Engineer.

ARTHUR H. POTT, M.I.C.E., M.I.E.E.

Secretary and Registered Offices.

A. L. BARBER, Evelyn House, 101 Finsbury Pavement, E.C.

The Company own 11 miles of Tramways, which are worked in connection with 30 miles of Light Railways held and worked by them under Agreements for lease from the Middlesex and Hertfordshire County Councils. Further Light Railways are being constructed.

The lines extend from London to Willesden and Wembley on the West; Edgware, Finchley, Barnet, and Enfield on the North; and to Edmonton and Waltham Cross on the North-East.

With the exception of 1½ miles, none of the Tramways are purchasable until the year 1930. Subject to an allowance to the Company of 6½ per cent. upon their capital expenditure on the Tramways, the net profits therefrom are shared with the Middlesex County Council.

The leases of the Light Railways are terminable in the years 1930 and 1946. The cost of constructing the Light Railways is borne by the County Councils. The electrical equipment, buildings, and rolling stock provided by the Company will be taken over by the County Councils at the expiration of the Leases, and paid for as part of a going concern. After provision of interest on Capital expended the net profits from the working are divisible between the County Councils and the Company.

The Company own all the issued Share Capital of the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company, from whom the electrical energy required for working the Tramways and Light Railways is purchased. The holding of the Company in the Power Supply Company at present amounts to £350,000, consisting of 30,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid, and 10,000 Shares of £5 paid. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum will be received in respect of the amount paid up on these Shares for the year 1907.

The Power Supply Company are also selling electricity in bulk in Stoke Newington, Willesden, Hendon, Enfield, Barnet, and Hertford.

The subjoined Statement indicates the growth of the Company's Revenue during the past four years.

Year	GROSS Revenue.	Working Charges including payments in respect of leases of lines.	Amounts written off and reserved for reconstruction.	Net Revenue available for Debenture and Loan Interest.	Amount of Debenture and Loan Interest.	Surplus available for further Debenture Interest and Dividends.
1904	£113,254	£65,244	—	£48,010	£15,727	£32,283
1905	171,797	103,350	£8,100	60,347	24,896	35,451
1906	215,406	135,449	11,502	68,455	28,711	39,744
1907	277,597	185,657	16,720	75,220	25,645	49,575

The above figures show for the year 1907 a net revenue of £75,220, after writing off £6,220, and providing £10,500 for future renewals, while the amount required for payment of the interest at 4½ per cent. per annum on the whole amount of £600,000 Debenture Stock is £27,000, or, including the Sinking Fund, £33,000 per annum.

The Debenture Stock is constituted and secured by Trust Deeds, whereby a first charge by way of floating security is created upon the Company's whole undertaking, including their uncalled Capital. The Stock is further secured by a specific charge on certain of the assets.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, the Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

The following particulars are taken from the full Prospectus, a copy of which has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies:

The LIST will open on MONDAY, the 2nd March, 1908, and close on or before FRIDAY, the 6th March, 1908.

The Metropolitan Trust Company, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

SHARE CAPITAL Subscribed and Fully Paid up ... £600,000
Now converted and divided into
4½ per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Stock ... £300,000
Ordinary Stock ... £300,000
RESERVE ... £150,000
FOUR PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK ... £600,000
(Of which £300,000 have been issued).

Further ISSUE of

£300,000 FOUR PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK,

Ranking *pari passu* with the Debenture Stock already issued, redeemable after 1st January, 1926, at the option of the Company, on six months' notice, at 103 per cent., and repayable at the same price if the Company should go into voluntary liquidation. Secured by a Trust Deed in favour of the Trustees, dated 29th October, 1903, and by a Supplemental Deed dated 20th February, 1908, whereby the Stock is constituted a floating charge upon the undertaking, business, securities, property, and assets of the Company.

The Deed contains provisions by which the rights of the Debenture Stockholders may be modified by an Extraordinary Resolution of a Meeting of the Debenture Stockholders duly convened.

Price of Issue, 99 per cent., payable:

5 per cent. on Application.
5 " " Allotment.

The balance of 89 per cent. may be paid either in full on Allotment or in such instalments and on such dates as may in each case be arranged with the Company, but so that the whole balance shall be paid not later than Six months after allotment.

The Stock will be registered in the books of the Company, and will be transferable in multiples of £1.

Interest is payable Half-yearly by Warrant to the Registered Holder on the 1st April and 1st October.

The first payment, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, calculated from the dates of payment of the Instalments, will be made on the 1st October, 1908.

Trustees for Holders of Debenture Stock.

EDWARD BOND, Esq. JOHN COWEN, Esq., W.S.

Directors.

ROBERT FLEMING, Esq., Chairman.
J. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., M.P.
H. A. VERNET, Esq.

Bankers.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 72 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Solicitors.

MESSES. PARKER, GARRETT, HOLMAN, and HOWDEN,
St. Michael's Rectory, Cornhill, London, E.C.

Auditors.

MESSES. DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, and Co.,
5 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.

Secretary and Office.

H. CARLISLE, 57 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Directors of the Metropolitan Trust Company, Limited, are prepared to receive applications for the above issue of Debenture Stock, on the basis of the full Prospectus.

By the Articles of Association, and by the Trust Deed, the Debenture Stock is limited to such an amount as shall not exceed at any one time the amount of the Company's subscribed Capital.

According to the audited Balance Sheet of the 1st January, 1908, the net assets of the Company at that date, after providing for all liabilities other than Share Capital and Debenture Stock, amounted to £1,055,867 13s., to which will fall to be added the proceeds of the present issue.

A valuation of the Investments, made as of the 1st January, 1908, upon principles approved by the Auditors, showed a value exceeding £150 per £100 Ordinary Stock after allowing for the Debenture and Preferred Stocks, and all liabilities, including the Dividends then payable. A valuation made on the same principles, as of the date of this Prospectus, shows that this figure has been more than maintained.

The Investments as at the 1st January, 1908, were summarised in the Directors' Report for the year ended on that date as follows:-

Railways, including Street Railways	£819,740	6	4
Foreign Government Securities	9,367	5	6
Telephone, Gas, Electric Lighting, and other Public Works	100,559	11	9
Commercial and Industrial	139,739	3	4
Trust Companies, &c.	81,127	2	9
	£1,150,533	11	8

Of these there were in-

Bonds, Debentures, or Debenture Stocks	£693,794	19	11
Preference Shares or Stocks	282,625	3	3
Ordinary Shares or Stocks	174,113	8	6
	£1,150,533	11	8

The following statement shows the net revenue of the Company available for the payment of Interest on the Debenture Stock, the amount of the Debenture Interest, and the Dividends paid on the Ordinary Stock for the last five years:-

	Net Revenue.	Debenture Interest Less Tax.	Dividends Paid Per cent.
For the year ended 1st January, 1904	£19,487	£440	6
For the year ended 1st January, 1905	28,310	7,617	6½
For the year ended 1st January, 1906	33,283	11,344	7
For the year ended 1st January, 1907	36,518	11,400	7½
For the year ended 1st January, 1908	43,622	11,400	8

The charge for interest upon the whole £600,000 Debenture Stock will be £24,000, and the Revenue available to meet that charge will naturally be increased through the investment of the proceeds of the present issue.

The above statement of Revenue does not include profits made on Sales of Securities, which have been carried direct to Reserve Account. The Reserve now amounts to £150,000.

No Underwriting Commission has been or will be paid in respect of this Issue.

An Official Stock Exchange quotation will be applied for in due course.

A brokerage of one-half per cent. will be paid upon all Allotments made in respect of applications bearing a Broker's Stamp.

This is not to be regarded as an invitation to subscribe. Applications for Stock will only be received on the basis of the full Prospectus, which can be obtained from the Bankers, and at the Company's office.

Dated 24th February, 1908.

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